

HEALTH

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NORTHAMPTON
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HEALTH REPORTS
1953

INCLUDING REPORT ON THE
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE



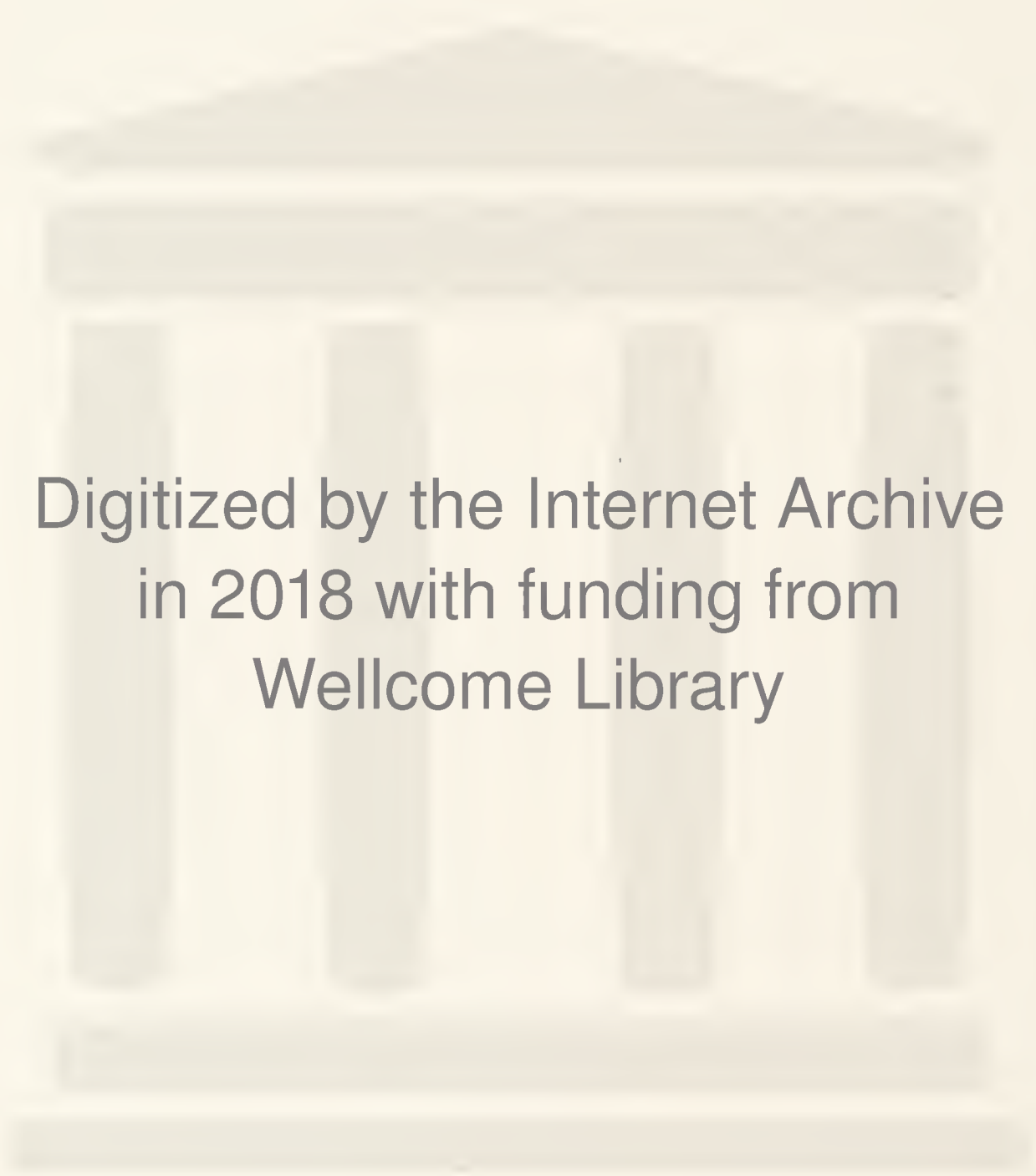
NORTHAMPTON
COUNTY BOROUGH
HEALTH REPORTS
1953

INCLUDING REPORT ON THE
SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE



Photograph by courtesy of Eric Ager, Northampton

MISS S. M. WEEKS, SUPERINTENDENT HEALTH VISITOR



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Health Report 1953

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INTRODUCTION TO HEALTH REPORT AND SCHOOL HEALTH REPORT, 1953

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, and Co-opted Members of the
Education Committee of Northampton County Borough.*

In accordance with my statutory duty as your Medical Officer of Health, I have the honour to present the Annual Health Report for the year 1953. This is the eightieth report of the series and is prepared according to Ministry of Health Circular 1/54 dated 12th January, 1954.

Also included with this Report are :—

(1) Mental Health Report, prepared in compliance with Regulation 12 of the Mental Deficiency Regulations, 1948, which reads as follows :—

“The Local Health Authority shall, not later than the thirtieth day of June in every year, make a report to the Minister of Health for the year ending on the thirty-first day of December preceding, on the performance of their duties under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913 to 1938, as amended by the National Health Service Act, 1946.”

(See pages 58 to 64).

(2) School Health Service Report (forty-sixth of the series), which conforms with the requirements of the Ministry of Education and complies with Regulation 13 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, which reads as follows :—

“As soon as possible after the end of each calendar year the Authority shall submit to the Minister in respect of that year a report by their Principal School Medical Officer on the health and well-being of pupils in his care and of the work of himself and his staff in relation thereto, including a report on the School Dental Service by the Principal School Dental Officer.”

(See pages 93 to 111).

Special Reports and Statistical Returns

In the previous report comment was made concerning special reports and statistical returns, the numbers of which have remained steady, 48 requests being received in 1953, compared with 47 in 1952.

It is still hoped that the Minister may be able to help along the lines indicated in my previous report.

Vital Statistics

It is interesting to note, relative to the vital statistics for 1953 for Northampton County Borough, that :—

- (1) The birth-rate (14·5) was slightly higher than in 1952 (*see* page 20);
- (2) The death-rate (12·9) was also higher (*see* page 20) ;
- (3) The total tuberculosis death-rate was 0·24, which is the lowest recorded (*see* page 49) ;
- (4) The infant mortality (23·2) is the third lowest recorded (*see* page 52).

Sanitary Circumstances

The sanitary circumstances of the town, housing, and the inspection and supervision of food are mentioned in Sections III., IV., and V., pages 30 to 43, which are well worth careful study.

Infectious Diseases

An outbreak of rubella occurred during the year and is recorded on page 44.

Twelve cases of poliomyelitis were notified (*see* page 44).

121 cases of infective jaundice are recorded on page 46. This information was obtained from teachers through the School Health Service and also from the general medical practitioners, who were asked to give particulars to the Medical Officer of Health, infective jaundice not being notifiable by statute.

It is pleasing to record that terminal disinfection, in so far as fumigation, etc., by officers of the Health Department was concerned, ceased in April, 1953. A leaflet giving instructions to householders as to disinfection following a case of infectious disease was revised and made available.

The Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953, came into operation on 1st April, 1953. Under Part III. of these Regulations dealing with typhoid fever, paratyphoid fever or other *Salmonella* infections, dysentery, and staphylococcal infections likely to cause food poisoning, the Council authorised the Medical Officer of Health to issue notices on behalf of the Local Authority in relation to any particular case if, in his judgment, it is immediately and urgently necessary for him to do so for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection. He is to report at the earliest opportunity any cases dealt with under such authorisation and the action taken by him thereon.

Fortunately, it was not necessary to use these powers during 1953.

Tuberculosis

A comprehensive report concerning the preventive work in connection with tuberculosis is given in Section VII. on pages 47 to 52.

Maternal and Child Health

Section VIII., pages 52 to 57, contains the report on this subject.

It has been observed that health visitors are being called upon more and more to give evidence in Court regarding matrimonial disputes involving the families amongst whom they work. This is a policy which is generally deplored and one which eventually undermines the confidence which health visitors have built up for a considerable time.

I have taken the opportunity of reporting on this matter to the Women Public Health Officers' Association, who agreed most sincerely in thinking that the calling of health visitors to give such evidence has a very harmful effect on their work and of the confidence placed in them by the families with whom they work. It is hoped that the Association may make representation to the Minister of Health on this matter.

It is interesting to observe from Table 21, page 88, that of the 1,506 live births and 30 stillbirths (total 1,536) registered in the County Borough, 1,148 occurred in maternity institutions, giving a percentage of 74·7. This is a very high figure for institutional confinement taking into consideration the general amenities of the town.

Mental Health

The report on mental deficiency and lunacy comprises Section IX., pages 58 to 64.

Comment was made in the report for 1951 concerning the presence of 50 mentally defective persons in St. Crispin Hospital. This number has now been reduced to 37.

Welfare Services

An account of the year's activities under the National Assistance Acts is given in Section X. on pages 64 to 70.

The erection of residential accommodation for old persons at Kings Heath has commenced (*see* page 67).

A handicraft class for blind persons was started on 23rd April, 1953 (*see* page 65). It has been well attended. The work of the welfare officers has been much appreciated.

Health Education

The work mentioned on page 10 of the previous report has been continued, some 27 talks having been given. Details are given on page 27.

Comments from recent conferences indicate that lectures to large audiences are less profitable than personal talks to a few persons. This policy has been recommended by me to the officers of this Department.

School Health Service

The School Health Report for 1953 occupies pages 93 to 111. An advance copy in typescript was forwarded to the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Education on 14th May, 1954.

It is pleasing to report still further improvement in the cleanliness of school children, as detailed on page 99, and it is a pleasure to pay credit to the school nurses and health visitors whose meticulous care causes such excellent results in this field of preventive medicine.

I would like to explain that there are 25 primary schools, 8 secondary modern, and 2 special schools, making a total of 35. The nurses made 310 surprise visits to schools for the purpose of inspecting children's hair. The figures of 310 visits and 35 schools indicate that the nurses visit about nine times per year. It is the nurses' policy to visit primary schools rather more frequently than others and again they endeavour to keep a closer watch on the girls than on the boys. Further, if a child is found with verminous hair it is not only re-examined very frequently until it is clean but has further inspections during the year to ensure that cleanliness is maintained.

It is disappointing to report, after my optimistic statement last year, that the School Dental Service is again reduced to one whole-time dentist and that, in consequence, dental inspections in schools have ceased—a most regrettable matter.

Negotiations throughout the year have resulted in a spastic unit being established (*see* page 105).

Under Regulation 10 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, the Education Committee have approved certain amendments in the arrangements for routine medical inspections. The effect of these alterations is that school children are examined as follows :—

- (1) *Entrants.*
- (2) *Juniors.* In the 8+ age-group, *i.e.*, during the second year of the junior school course.
- (3) *Leavers.* During the academic year prior to the year in which they leave school.
- (4) *Special Schools.* Routine medical inspections of all children at the Open Air and Wellington Place Special Schools will take place in alternate years (instead of yearly, as at present).

Civil Defence

At the end of 1953 there were 94 volunteers in the Ambulance Section and 158 in the Welfare Section who had completed their basic training and were undergoing sectional training.

Comment was made last year concerning the difficulty of training ambulance volunteers. A training ambulance (CNV 127) was acquired and brought into use on 19th May, 1953, and has done very good service, both in exercises and as a vehicle for training drivers with no experience in driving at all or with experience in driving a private car but not a large vehicle. It would be advisable, of course, to have a separate vehicle for learner drivers. The help of the Principal Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health (Sir Selwyn Selwyn-Clarke) was much appreciated in acquiring this vehicle.

Voluntary Associations

Chiefly for convenience and reference, a statement is given on page 27 of the Council's contributions to voluntary associations, etc., the total amounting to £1,165 11s. 5d.

Conclusion

It gives me great pleasure to report the award of the Coronation Medal and to offer our warmest congratulations to Miss S. M. Weeks, the Superintendent Health Visitor. (Her photograph appears between pages 1 and 3 of this volume). Miss Weeks has served this County Borough since 1st November, 1943, and enjoys the confidence of everybody.

The retirements occurred during the year of Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector T. L. Boast, who joined the Department on 10th August, 1920, and Mr. A. W. Blason, General Assistant, who had served the Department since 13th December, 1900. On behalf of their colleagues, I would wish them good health in which to enjoy their rest.

I regret to report that in recent months the Department has lost the services of three members by death, viz : Dr. R. T. Hicks, Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, on 17th January, 1954 ; Mr. S. A. Tench, Sanitary Inspector, on 13th October, 1952 (after 45 years' service) ; and Mr. C. Adams, Clerk, on 4th December, 1953.

I have to express my thanks to the Chairmen, Deputy-Chairmen, and Members of the various Committees associated with the administration of the Health and School Health Departments for the careful and sympathetic consideration given to the recommendations and reports presented to them.

Last, but by no means the least, I wish to thank all members of the staff, professional and clerical, for their splendid work throughout the year.

CARRICK G. PAYTON

Medical Officer of Health

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
7A ST. GILES' SQUARE,
NORTHAMPTON.
JUNE, 1954.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Certain information contained in these Annual Reports has been supplied by the following, to whom acknowledgment is made, and the Medical Officer of Health wishes personally to thank them for their co-operation during the year and hopes that their help has been reciprocated in some degree :—

Town Clerk

Borough Treasurer and Chief Rating Officer

Borough Engineer and Surveyor

Borough Architect and Town Planning Officer

Chief Education Officer

Housing Manager

Organisers of Physical Training

Registrar-General

St. John Ambulance Brigade

Northampton Branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing

Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association

Consultant Chest Physician

Tuberculosis Care Committee

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Northampton Employment Exchange

Messrs. R. H. Primavesi, Ltd.

Women's Voluntary Services, Northampton County Borough

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as constituted on 31st December, 1953)

Ex-officio

The Worshipful the Mayor
(ALDERMAN W. A. PICKERING, J.P.)

Chairman

COUNCILLOR T. H. DOCKRELL, M.B., F.R.C.S.I.

Deputy-Chairman

ALDERMAN MRS. H. M. NICHOLLS

Alderman

P. W. ADAMS

Councillors

MRS. G. BROWN
J. W. DICKINS
SAUL DOFFMAN
MRS. K. M. GIBBS

MRS. E. E. WILKINSON

P. GIBSON
W. D. HEYMANSON
P. McSHANE
B. C. TIPPLESTON

SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Health Services

COUNCILLOR DOCKRELL (*Chairman*) ; ALDERMAN MRS. NICHOLLS (*Deputy-Chairman*) ; COUNCILLORS DICKINS, MRS. GIBBS, HEYMANSON, and MRS. WILKINSON.

Non-Council Members—MESDAMES G. L. CHARLESWORTH, E. DAVIES, H. MACQUIRE, J. MARTIN, and J. H. PEACH.

Sanitary Services

ALDERMAN ADAMS (*Chairman*) ; COUNCILLOR DOFFMAN (*Deputy-Chairman*) ; ALDERMAN MRS. NICHOLLS ; COUNCILLORS MRS. BROWN, DICKINS, and GIBSON.

Welfare Services

COUNCILLOR MRS. WILKINSON (*Chairman*) ; ALDERMAN MRS. NICHOLLS (*Deputy-Chairman*) ; COUNCILLORS DOCKRELL, DOFFMAN, MRS. GIBBS, and HEYMANSON.

Non-Council Members—MESDAMES E. BATCHELOR, D. L. CAMPBELL, G. L. CHARLESWORTH, J. H. PEACH, and I. E. WALKER.

Each of the above Committees meets monthly.

STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1953

Medical Officer of Health, Principal School Medical Officer, Chief Tuberculosis Officer, and Welfare Administrator—

CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H. (Also *Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts*)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Principal School Medical Officer—

RAYMOND J. DONALDSON, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H. (Also *Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts*)

Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare—

MRS. M. MARTIN WILLIAMS, M.B., CH.B.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer—

ROBERT T. HICKS, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Also *Certifying Officer under the Mental Deficiency Acts*) (Died 17/1/54)

MARGARET O'CONNOR, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Commenced 1/9/53)

Public Analyst—*

A. PRIDEAUX DAVSON, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., F.C.S.

Deputy Public Analyst—*

D. G. ALLEN, B.SC., F.R.I.C.

Dental Surgeons†—

J. P. WILSON, L.D.S.R.C.S. (*Chief Dental Officer*)

MRS. M. CANOVAN, L.D.S. (*Assistant Dental Officer* ; full time to 30/9/53, part time 1/10/53 to 14/11/53 when resigned)

Sanitary Inspectors—

H. S. DAVIES (1, 2) (*Chief Inspector*)

T. L. BOAST (1, 2) (*Deputy Chief Inspector* ; retired 1/1/54)

T. A. HARRIS (1, 2)

M. DE V. MERRIMAN (1) (Resigned 31/1/53)

R. L. TUDGE (1, 2)

E. G. RAWLINGS (1, 2)

S. SUMMERSON (1) (Resigned 30/9/53)

R. PULFORD (1) (Commenced 28/1/53)

Student Sanitary Inspector—

R. PULFORD (Until 28/1/53)

Health Visitors‡—

MISS S. M. WEEKS (3, 4, 6) (*Superintendent*)

MISS R. M. BRADY (3, 4, 6)

MISS E. A. WILLIAMS (3, 5, 6) (Resigned 14/7/53)

MISS S. G. HANSFORD (3, 4, 6, 7)

MISS D. SYMMONDS (3, 5, 6, 7) (Resigned 31/1/53)

MISS M. E. GRANT (3, 4, 6)

MISS F. H. COLLIER (3, 5, 6)

MISS B. D. JUKES (3, 5, 6)

MISS F. H. CHAMBERLAIN (3, 4, 6)

MISS J. G. LANE (3, 4, 6)

MISS R. LISTER (3, 4, 6)

MISS M. F. KENNARD (3, 4, 6) (Commenced 5/1/53)

MRS. N. MOORE (3, 4, 6) (Commenced 5/1/53)

MISS M. E. PYE (3, 4, 6) (Commenced 20/7/53)

MISS E. TURNER (3, 4, 6) (Commenced 20/7/53)

Student Health Visitors—

MISS M. F. KENNARD (Until 5/1/53)
 MRS. N. MOORE (Until 5/1/53)
 MISS M. E. PYE (Until 20/7/53)
 MISS E. TURNER (Until 20/7/53)
 MISS M. FLEMING (3, 4) (Commenced 12/1/53)

Tuberculosis Visitor—

MRS. M. A. ALLSEBROOK (3)

Matron, Spencer Day Nursery—

MRS. R. COOK (3, 8)

Matron, Kingsthorpe Park Day Nursery—

MISS M. A. WESTCOTT (9)

Organiser of Domestic Help—

MRS. M. D. HARDING (3, 4)

Mental Health Officer (Mental Deficiency)—

MRS. K. M. WARD (10) (Also Authorised Officer)

Duly Authorised Officer and Mental Health Officer (Lunacy)—

R. H. JOHNSON

Handicraft Centre Staff—

MRS. M. A. AXFORD (11) (Supervisor)
 MISS I. L. BULLOCK
 MRS. M. E. PAYNE (Resigned 28/2/53)
 MISS J. LINER
 MISS J. P. JUSTICE (Commenced 27/4/53)

Welfare Officer—

MISS V. M. HARRISON (12)

Assistant Welfare Officers—

J. D. BENOY (12)
 N. BOOTH (12)

Occupational Therapist—

MISS B. H. SAMMONS (13) (Resigned 31/10/53)

Clerks—

H. T. BOSWELL (Chief Clerk)
 D. R. GROTHUSEN (Senior Clerk)
 A. F. KNIGHT (Statistical Clerk)
 L. BLAKE
 C. ADAMS (Died 4/12/53)
 L. W. GARNER
 W. G. TOMALIN
 R. N. RHODES
 G. A. WALLINGTON (To military service 15/1/52)
 G. E. COOK (Resigned 30/11/53)
 R. G. STREETER (Resigned 10/10/53)
 J. FLOYD (Commenced 23/11/53)
 J. K. SWEENEY (Commenced 23/11/53)
 B. W. KIRKTON (Commenced 5/8/53)

Clerks—continued

MISS D. E. ADNITT (*Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Department*)
 MISS J. RICHARDSON (*Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Department*)
 MRS. T. F. WILLIAMS (*Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Department*)
 K. M. LINNELL (*Mental Health Sub-Department ; also Relief Authorised Officer*)
 MRS. H. M. ANDREWS (*Domestic Help Sub-Department*)

General Assistant—

A. W. BLASON (Retired 20/9/53)

Disinfestation Officer—

F. J. R. MISSIN

General Manual Assistant and Motor Driver—

W. C. SMITH

Rat-catcher—

W. E. J. DUNKLEY

The following Officers on the staff of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board rendered part-time service to Northampton County Borough Council :—

ERNEST T. W. STARKIE, M.A., M.B., B.CH., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (*Consultant Chest Physician*)
 JAMES M. H. McMURRAY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (*Chest Physician*)
 MISS H. S. REDDISH (*Tuberculosis Almoner*)

* Part-time appointment.

† Mainly for School Dental work ; part time devoted to Maternity and Child Welfare work.

‡ Health Visitors also undertake school work and tuberculosis visiting under a co-ordinated scheme.

- 1 Sanitary Inspector's Certificate.
- 2 Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate.
- 3 State Registered Nurse.
- 4 State Certified Midwife.
- 5 Part I. Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.
- 6 Health Visitor's Certificate.
- 7 State Registered Fever Nurse.
- 8 Certificate of National Nursery Examination Board.
- 9 Registered Sick Children's Nurse.
- 10 Trained in Mental Deficiency.
- 11 Qualified Teacher.
- 12 Home Teacher's Certificate of College of Teachers of the Blind.
- 13 Dual Diploma of the Association of Occupational Therapists.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH

Position : Latitude.....52° 14' North ; Longitude.....0° 54' West

Elevation of Guildhall above mean sea level 252 feet

Area6,201 acres (9·7 square miles)

Population :—

Census 1931 (before extension) 92,341

Census 1931 (including area added 1st April, 1932).... 96,546

Census 1951 (provisional) 104,429

Registrar-General's Estimated Home Population (all ages)
as at 30th June, 1953, including members of Armed
Forces stationed in area 104,000

Number of Inhabited Houses :—

Census 1931 23,141

According to Rate Books (31st December, 1953) 32,200

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census 1931) .. 24,966

Rateable Value (31st December, 1953) £850,806

Estimated Yield of One Penny Rate 1953/54 £3,422

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1953

	TOTALS	MALES	FEMALES			
Live Births	Legitimate	1,421	732	689	} Birth-rate	14·5
	Illegitimate	85	44	41		
	Total	1,506	776	730		
Adjusted Birth-rate (Area Comparability Factor 1·02)				....		14·8
Stillbirths	Legitimate	29	13	16	} Rate	0·29*
	Illegitimate	1	1	—		
	Total	30	14	16		
Deaths	.....	1,340	694	646	—Death-rate	12·9
Adjusted Death-rate (Area Comparability Factor 0·92)				....		11·9
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Childbirth						1†
Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age per 1,000 Live Births :—						
Legitimate..23·2		Illegitimate..23·5	Total (35 deaths)		23·2	
(33 deaths)		(2 deaths)				

	NUMBER	RATE
Deaths from Measles	0	0·00
Deaths from Whooping Cough	0	0·00
Deaths from Diphtheria	0	0·00
Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis	21	0·20
Deaths from Other Tuberculous Diseases	4	0·04
Total Tuberculosis Deaths	25	0·24
Deaths from Cancer	208	2·00
Deaths from Influenza	17	0·16

* 19·5 per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births Registered.

† 0·65 per 1,000 Total Births Registered.

I.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population. (Table A, page 92). The Registrar-General estimated the home population at all ages of Northampton County Borough as at 30th June, 1953, to be 104,000, which is 300 more than his estimate for mid-year 1952.

The natural increase of the population, *i.e.*, the excess of live births over deaths, for 1953 was 166, or 1.60 per thousand living.

Table A gives the population figures from 1921 onwards.

The population at the 1951 Census was provisionally given as 104,429.

Births. (Tables 1 and 2, page 71). 1,506 live births (776 males, 730 females) were registered, giving a birth-rate of 14.5 per thousand of the estimated civilian population, compared with 15.5 for England and Wales and 17.0 for the 160 county boroughs and great towns (including London).

Table 1 gives the birth-rates for the last decennium compared with those for England and Wales.

85 (5.6 per cent.) of the births were illegitimate. In England and Wales the percentage was 4.6. The percentages for the last ten years are shewn in Table 2.

The adjusted birth-rate for Northampton County Borough (calculated by multiplying the crude rate by the Registrar-General's area comparability factor of 1.02) was 14.8.

Deaths. (Table 3, page 71, and Table C at end). 1,340 deaths (694 males, 646 females) were registered, equal to a death-rate of 12.9, compared with 11.4 for England and Wales and 12.2 for the great towns. Table 3 gives the local and national death-rates for the last ten years.

954 (71.2 per cent.) of the deaths related to elderly persons aged sixty-five years and upwards.

Table C at the end of this report, giving the causes of death in age-periods, was compiled from information supplied by the Registrar-General.

The adjusted death-rate for Northampton County Borough (calculated by multiplying the crude rate by the area comparability factor of 0.92) was 11.9.

State of Employment. There was a gradual reduction in the number of persons registered as unemployed at Northampton Employment Exchange during 1953.

On 12th January, 1953, 554 persons (283 men and 271 women) were registered as unemployed.

On 7th December, 1953, the unemployed register comprised the following :—

Men (aged 18 years and over)	169
Women (aged 18 years and over)	101
Total	<hr/> 270 <hr/>

The men's register of 169 included 75 who were over fifty years of age. The number of unemployed registered disabled persons suitable for ordinary employment was 41 men and 5 women.

Details of a few severely disabled persons unlikely to obtain work other than under special conditions are excluded from the above figures.

The principal outstanding demands for men were in general engineering, the manufacture and repair of motor vehicles and aircraft, building, boot and shoe manufacture, and on the railways. The main demands for women were in the manufacture of clothing and boots and shoes, retail distribution, and the medical and dental services.

Meteorology. (Table 4, page 72). The total rainfall for 1953 was 20·19 inches, *i.e.*, 7·07 inches less than in 1952 and 4·88 inches below the average for the past forty-nine years, 1904 to 1952 inclusive. The wettest month was July and the driest December. The heaviest fall occurred on 23rd August, when 1·09 inches were registered. The number of days on which 0·01 inch or more rain fell was 165.

The highest shade temperature recorded was 86·5°F. on 12th August. The lowest reading of the thermometer was 22·0°F. on 14th February. There were 38 cold nights, *i.e.*, nights when the temperature fell to 32°F. (freezing point) or below.

The prevailing wind was south-west on 143 days, north-west on 113, north-east on 67, and south-east on 42.

Other Statistics. The notes on infant and maternal mortality, stillbirths, notifiable and other diseases, housing conditions, and other statistics usually included in the annual report, will be found under the headings referring to these matters.

Attention is also directed to the statistics on page 19, to Table A on page 92, and to Tables B and C at the end of this report.

II.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Health Staff. A list of the officers of the Health Department appears on pages 16 to 18.

The staff employed in the school health service is listed in the Annual Report upon the School Health Service on page 95.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. A list is given below of clinics, etc., in Northampton County Borough on 31st December, 1953 :—

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL CLINICS

St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre.

Mondays, 3 to 4 p.m., or by appointment.

* Those patients booked for confinement at the Barratt Maternity Home and St. Edmund's Maternity Unit attend the Barratt Home Ante-natal Clinics under the control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

- (1) Abington Avenue (Congregational Church Rooms).
Thursdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (2) Broadmead (Baptist Church Rooms).
Mondays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (3) Dallington (Spencer-Dallington Community Centre).
Thursdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (4) Far Cotton (St. Mary's Church Rooms).
Mondays and Wednesdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (5) Kingsley Park (Methodist Church Rooms).
Mondays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (6) Kingsthorpe (Baptist Church Rooms).
Tuesdays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (7) St. David's (Church Rooms).
Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (8) St. Giles' Street (Infant Welfare Centre).
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (9) St. Sepulchre's (Church Buildings).
Wednesdays and Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.
- (10) Wheatfield Road (Abington Community Centre).
Fridays, 2 to 4.30 p.m.

(With the exception of (8) above, all these centres are held on hired premises).

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION CLINICS

- (1) St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre.
Mondays, 2 to 3 p.m. (Children under five years of age).
- (2) School Clinic, King Street. By appointment. (School children).

MINOR AILMENTS CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. Weekdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 to 4.30 p.m. (Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon).

DENTAL CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. By appointment.

EYE CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. By appointment.

*ORTHOPTIC CLINIC

Northampton General Hospital. School cases referred by Ophthalmic Surgeon.

*EAR NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC

Northampton General Hospital. Cases referred from School Clinic and Child Welfare Centres.

*ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC

Manfield Orthopædic Clinic, Hazelwood Road. Cases referred through Child Welfare Centres or School Clinic.

REMEDIAL EXERCISES CLINIC

School Clinic, King Street. Tuesday afternoons and Wednesday mornings by appointment.

SUNLIGHT CLINIC

(1) St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre. Cases referred from Child Welfare Centres.

(2) School Clinic, King Street. School children by appointment.

SPEECH CLINIC

28 Billing Road. By appointment.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

County Offices, Guildhall Road. By appointment.

*CHEST CLINIC (TUBERCULOSIS)

Chest Clinic, 11 St. Matthew's Parade.

Routine sessions : Tuesdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Session for workers : Mondays from 5.30 p.m.

Sessions for diagnosis cases : Wednesdays and Fridays from 9.30 a.m.

Session for contacts, etc. : As arranged.

Sessions for artificial pneumothorax treatment : Mondays and Wednesdays commencing 2 p.m.

Domiciliary visits : By arrangement with the Consultant Chest Physician.

*VENEREAL DISEASES

Treatment Centre, Northampton General Hospital.

Males—Wednesdays 2 p.m. ; Fridays 5 p.m.

Females—Mondays 5 p.m. ; Fridays 2 p.m.

* Clinics marked with an asterisk are under the control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

National Health Service. The Northampton County Borough Council's proposals under the National Health Service Act, 1946, were approved by the Minister of Health during 1948.

Modifications were made in 1950 and 1952 to the proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, for the Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.

The Annual Reports for 1948, 1950, and 1952 should be consulted for further details.

A special survey of local health services under the National Health Service Acts, 1946 to 1952, prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 29/52 dated 19th August, 1952, was incorporated in the 1952 Report, pages 26 to 39.

The report of the Principal School Dental Officer on the dental treatment provided for expectant and nursing mothers and for young children during 1953 is given on pages 56 and 90.

Home Nursing. This service is provided by the Northampton Branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing on behalf of the Council. During 1953, Queen's Nurses paid 61,493 visits to 2,344 cases. There were fifteen whole-time and eight part-time nurses on the staff at the end of the year.

Ambulance Services. The St. John Ambulance Brigade operate the ambulance services on behalf of the Local Authority, covering infectious disease cases as well as general ambulance work and accidents.

The following summarises the work during 1953 :—

	AMBULANCES	CARS	TOTALS
Vehicles on 31/12/53	8	1	9
Journeys	6,856	8,183	15,039
Patients carried	8,194	8,665	16,859
Accidents and other emergency journeys included above	445	36	481
Total mileage	50,733	61,260	111,993

Of the total mileage of 111,993, journeys within the County Borough amounted to 74,324 miles and those to destinations outside to 37,669. There were 263 journeys of 50 miles or more which accounted for 26,170 miles of the 37,669.

The 1953 mileage of 111,993 compares with 105,370 in 1952.

The average monthly mileage in 1953 was 9,333, compared with 8,781 in 1952.

On 31st December, 1953, the paid whole-time drivers and attendants numbered 13.

Whenever possible, railway facilities were used for the longer journeys. There were 54 such journeys in 1953, totalling 6,222 miles.

There were 85 persons conveyed by motor ambulance or sitting case car at the request of the Ministry of Pensions or the Ministry of Health to artificial limb and appliance centres, mainly at Leicester and Nottingham, involving 47 journeys and a mileage of 4,253.

Convalescence. In accordance with the Council's scheme under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, two persons received recuperative convalescence for two weeks in a convalescent home at Ramsgate. Assistance towards cost of transport only was granted in another case. They were all assessed to contribute towards the cost according to their means.

Domestic Help. The following information relates to the working of the Domestic Help Scheme under Section 29 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 :—

Administrative staff on 31st December, 1953 :—

Organiser	1	}	2
Clerk	1		

Home helps employed on 31st December, 1953 :—

Whole time (permanent staff)	5	}	34
Part time (temporary staff)	29		

Cases helped during 1953 :—

Maternity (including expectant mothers)	98	}	386
Tuberculosis	7		
Chronic sick including aged and infirm	215		
Others	66		

(Weekly average of cases helped=104).

Visits by Organiser :—

To home helps	4	}	50
To homes of patients	46		

Under the approved scheme, help can be provided for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. Application is made to the Medical Officer of Health. Charges appropriate to the means of the user are made in accordance with a local scale.

One person was summoned for failing to pay £2 2s. 6d., balance of an assessed charge. The Court ordered payment plus costs amounting to 9s. 6d.

Occupational Therapy. The Occupational Therapist's duties are mainly concerned with aged, etc., persons in residential accommodation under Part III. of the National Assistance Act, 1948, and with tuberculous persons under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

15 new cases were admitted to occupational therapy in 1953 and 35 were discharged, leaving 43 on prescription in the following groups :—

Residents in Part III. Accommodation, St. Edmund's Hospital	24
Tuberculous patients	6
General patients	13
	—
Total	43
	—

In addition, the Occupational Therapist paid 605 visits and gave instruction at 30 handicraft class sessions (13 for blind persons and 17 in connection with tuberculosis care).

The Occupational Therapist resigned on 31st October, 1953, and her post had not been filled by the end of the year.

Mental Health Services. The Health Committee, acting through the Health Services Sub-Committee (*see* page 15), are responsible for the administration locally of legislation embodied in the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts and Mental Deficiency Acts, as amended by the National Health Service Acts.

The report for 1953 is incorporated in this volume (*see* Section IX. on pages 58 to 64).

School Health Service. The Medical Officer of Health is also Principal School Medical Officer. The Annual Report upon the School Health Service is published on pages 93 to 111 and gives particulars of the staff employed and the work done during 1953.

Welfare Services. In Northampton County Borough the welfare services under the National Assistance Acts are under the general administration of the Medical Officer of Health, who is also designated Welfare Administrator.

Reference should be made to Section X. on pages 64 to 70.

Children's Homes, etc. The following work was performed by the Health Department for the Children Committee :—

Visits by Medical Officers to Remand Home	32
Number of examinations of boys	280
Examinations by Medical Officers of boarded-out children	18
Visits by Medical Officers to Children's Homes	62
Number of examinations of children	165

Laboratory Facilities. The work in connection with water and food or the control of epidemic diseases, etc., is performed in the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton General Hospital, free of charge to the Local Authority.

Maternity and Other Nursing Homes. On 31st December, 1953, three nursing homes (containing 51 beds, including 33 for maternity cases) were on the register kept under Section 187 of the Public Health Act, 1936, viz :—

HOME	REGISTERED FOR
St. Matthew's Nursing Home, 29/31 St. Matthew's Parade	22 patients (not more than 4 to be maternity cases)
St. Saviour's Home, 21A Manor Road	15 maternity cases
Speedwell Nursing Home, 51 East Park Parade	14 maternity cases

St. Saviour's Home is managed by the Peterborough Diocesan Council of Moral Welfare. Unmarried mothers are retained there, along with their babies, for about four months, during which period they receive training in domestic duties as well as in child management.

These homes are regularly inspected by the Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, the officer appointed by the Local Authority to carry out this duty. (See page 55).

One nursing home was exempted from registration under Section 192 of the Public Health Act, 1936, viz : Bethany Homestead Nursing Home.

Health Education. Mothers attending child welfare clinics were instructed and advised by doctors and health visitors of the Health Department staff on a variety of health education subjects.

Lectures and talks were also given by members of the staff for the benefit of groups of interested persons or organisations. Seven officers gave 27 talks in this way to audiences totalling over 800.

Contributions to Voluntary Associations. Below is a list of annual grants and contributions made by the Council, through the Health Committee, to voluntary associations operating in the field of public health and welfare :—

ASSOCIATION	ANNUAL AMOUNT £ s. d.	OBSERVATION
<i>Paid through Local Health Authority Account</i>		
National Society of Children's Nurseries . .	3 3 0	Annual affiliation fee
National Baby Week Council	5 5 0	Annual grant
National Association for Maternal and Child Welfare	5 5 0	Annual affiliation fee

National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child.....	3	3	0	Annual grant
Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association	100	0	0	Annual grant
Northampton Women's Welfare Association ..	15	0	0	Annual grant
Central Midwives Board	50	5	5	Apportioned contri- bution for 1952/53
Northampton Tubercu- losis Care Committee	350	0	0	Annual grant
National Association for Mental Health	5	5	0	Annual grant
<i>Paid through Welfare Account</i>				
Northampton Council of Social Service	550	0	0	Annual grant <i>re</i> St. George's Homestead
Southern Regional Associ- ation for the Blind ..	19	0	0	Apportioned contri- bution for 1952/53
National Library for the Blind	54	0	0	Annual contribution based on readers
Midland Regional Associ- ation for the Deaf....	5	5	0	Annual affiliation fee
<i>Paid through Public Health Account</i>				
Nil				
Total ..	<hr/> £1,165 11 5 <hr/>			

Legislation in Force. Appended is a list of Local Acts and Orders, General Adoptive Acts, and Byelaws relating to public health in force in the County Borough :—

LOCAL ACTS AND ORDERS

Northampton Improvement Act, 1843.

Northampton Corporation Markets and Fairs Act, 1870.

Northampton Improvement Act, 1871.

The Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (Arundel, etc.) Act, 1876.

Northampton Corporation Act, 1882.

Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 4) Act, 1892.

Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 13) Act, 1893.

Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 14) Act, 1900.

Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 10) Act, 1907.

Northampton Corporation Act, 1911.

Northampton Corporation Act, 1922.

Ministry of Health Provisional Orders Confirmation (No. 1) Act, 1925.

Northampton Extension Act, 1931.

The Northampton Corporation Act, 1943.

Ministry of Health Provisional Order Confirmation (Northampton) Act, 1948.

In addition, there are 24 Housing Confirmation Orders—see list on pages 25 and 26 of the Health Report for 1950.

GENERAL ADOPTIVE ACTS

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 :—

Parts I., II., and III. (adopted 6th April, 1891) ;
Part IV. (7th December, 1942).

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 :—

Parts II. and VI., except s. 19 in Part II. (adopted 3rd July, 1911) ;
Part X., s. 95 (14th November, 1922).

Public Health Act, 1925 :—

Part II., except ss. 21, 25, 27, and 34 (adopted 8th March, 1926) ;
Part II., s. 21 (15th May, 1926).

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

Part I., s. 16 (1st June, 1949).

BYELAWS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—

Tents, Vans, Sheds, and Similar Structures used for Human Habitation (1914 and 1932).

Luggage Porters and Light Porters (1924).

Pleasure Grounds, etc. (1926 and 1933).

New Streets (1927 and 1932).

Nursing Homes (1929 and 1932).

Imposing on Occupier duties in connection with Removal of House Refuse (1932).

Common Lodging Houses (1932).

Parking Places (1936 and 1937).

Baths, Wash-houses, etc. (1937).

Nuisances from Snow, Filth, Ashes, etc., Keeping of Animals (1939).

Building (1939).

Cemeteries (1947).

Hackney Carriages (1948 and 1951).

BYELAWS UNDER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1933 :—

Good Rule and Government (1929, 1944, and 1950).

BYELAWS UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938 :—

Slaughterhouses (1887, 1929, and 1932).

Handling, Wrapping, and Delivery of Food ; Sale and Exposure for Sale in Open Air (1950).

III.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

Water. Particulars relating to the waterworks at Teeton and Hollowell and the sources of the public water supply of Northampton County Borough and district have been given in previous reports. The water is treated with charcoal for undesirable flavour, filtered, and chlorinated, so that it reaches a high degree of bacteriological purity.

Pitsford Reservoir, now under construction and due for completion in 1956, will cover an area of 175 acres and will hold 4,000,000,000 gallons, compared with the present reservoirs at Ravensthorpe (414,000,000 gallons) and Hollowell (453,000,000 gallons).

The water level in the existing reservoirs was much below normal at the end of 1953 and gave rise to anxiety. Not until Pitsford Reservoir is in service will the danger of shortage be over.

This water undertaking is managed by the Mid-Northamptonshire Water Board, of which Northampton County Borough are a constituent authority.

It must be made quite clear, however, that under Section 28 of the Water Act, 1945, it is the duty of every local authority to take from time to time such steps as may be necessary for ascertaining the sufficiency and wholesomeness of water supplies within their district, etc.

95 samples collected from various points of supply within the County Borough were submitted for bacteriological examination and a satisfactory report was received in each instance.

The average daily consumption of water in the County Borough is estimated to be about 25 gallons per head of the population.

Only a very few houses are not supplied direct from the public mains.

Nearly half the houses are without baths and 9,000 closets lack water-flushing apparatus.

Drainage and Sewerage. Table 6, page 75, gives particulars of house drains reconstructed during 1953.

Chiefly as a result of rat complaints, existing drains are tested and repaired under the supervision of the district sanitary inspectors, new drainage and reconstructions being the responsibility of the Borough Engineer, as also is sewage disposal.

The sewerage system of the County Borough was described in the report for 1933 after the construction of the outfall sewer and the works at Great Billing, where after screening and sedimentation the sewage is subjected to land treatment and finally discharged into the River Nene. The effluent before discharge is under constant supervision and examination by the resident chemist.

New modern works are under construction for the complete purification of the sewage without resort to land treatment, incorporating such of the existing plant as is suitable and the adoption of modern methods for the treatment and disposal of sludge.

There are still a few properties on the outskirts of the County Borough not connected to the main system, but none of these gave rise to complaints.

Rivers, Streams, and Watercourses. No complaints were received during the year and at no time did conditions arise to cause a nuisance.

Public Cleansing. This continues to be efficiently carried out under the direction of the Borough Engineer. Collections of household refuse and salvage are made twice weekly.

Dustbins are provided by the Local Authority for the use of householders, free of charge, under Section 75 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

District Inspection. Table 5, page 73, summarises the work of the sanitary inspectors. 14,566 inspections and visits were made during 1953.

Smoke Abatement. Of the complaints received, the chief causes were :
(1) burning of trade waste by shoe factories, (2) unsatisfactory fuel,
(3) bad stoking, and (4) overloading and bad management of plant.

In every case the district sanitary inspectors gave advice and had full co-operation from managements. Taking into consideration the bad siting of many boilers, it is felt that smoke nuisance in the County Borough is kept at a practical minimum.

There are no byelaws in operation relating to the emission of black smoke.

Swimming Baths. Northampton has adequate swimming facilities, both open-air and indoor. The Public Baths, Upper Mounts, is a modern establishment, whilst the open-air swimming pool, known as Midsummer Meadow Baths, is a large sheet of water with pleasant surroundings. In addition, there is an indoor bath at Barry Road School.

The open-air baths are subject to regular inspection during the summer.

Disinfestation Service. Insect problems of all types are dealt with by the municipal disinfestation service. Gammexane and D.D.T. compositions are used and applied by a 30 lb. pressure spray and powder blower. Bedding, etc., is dealt with in a steam disinfector.

Charges : For ordinary dwellinghouses, a flat rate of five shillings per room, with a maximum charge of £2 per house. For infestations of bed bugs and fleas, which are certified by the sanitary inspectors as requiring attention in the public interest, no charge is made.

Treatment of business premises is carried out by contract or after survey and estimate of cost has been prepared for special solutions which may have to be purchased or made up to deal with the particular problem.

The information below regarding the eradication of bed bugs is set out in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

- (1) During 1953, infestations of bed bugs were found in 15 Council houses and 26 other houses.
- (2) Methods of disinfestation employed—*see first paragraph.*
- (3) The furniture and effects of tenants from 19 bug-infested houses were treated prior to removal to Council houses.
- (4) The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Disinfestation Officer under the supervision of the sanitary inspectors.
- (5) Remedial measures are explained to tenants when premises are treated, so as to prevent re-infestation ; 146 check visits were made.

Two infestations—one of earwigs and the other of clover mites—were dealt with on new Council housing estates. The latter was the cause of some annoyance to tenants, the clover mites appearing on window sills and inside walls of houses in thousands. Whilst they could

be dealt with successfully inside, the source was virtually impossible to trace and precautionary spraying of outside vegetation was liable to affect adversely plants and lawns. However, a packing of gammexane powder in the space round badly fitting window frames and sills kept the insects out of the houses and the infestation gradually subsided.

Schools. The sanitary condition of schools was kept under observation.

Canal Boats. The following is extracted from the annual report under Section 249 (3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, prepared for the Ministry of Health.

The number of boats inspected during 1953 was 68. No registration certificates were produced for 2 boats and the remainder were registered to carry 204 adults. The actual number of occupants was 91 adults and 29 children. Repairs were required on 15 boats, 19 required repainting, 7 needed issue or replacement of registration certificates, and 17 were insufficiently ventilated. No legal proceedings were taken. Letters were sent to the Docks and Inland Waterways Executive respecting these infringements.

No cases of infectious disease were notified and no boats were detained for disinfection. No boats were registered during the year ; the number on the register, and believed to be in use, is three.

Common Lodging Houses. At the end of the year there were only two common lodging houses on the register, viz :—

PREMISES	ACCOMMODATION (MEN)
38/40 Compton Street	8
5 St. Andrew's Street	34
	—
Total	42
	—

The Inspector of Common Lodging Houses kept these premises under frequent supervision.

Factories. Table 9 (page 79) gives particulars of premises on the register and work done under the Factories Act, 1937, in the form prescribed by the Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Offensive Trades. At the end of December, 1953, there were twelve names on the register, viz :—

Fat melter	1
Rag and bone dealers	8
Bone dealer	1
Tripe boiler	1
Tripe boiler, fat melter, and gut scraper	1

All these offensive trades were kept under supervision by the district sanitary inspectors. They were conducted satisfactorily and no complaints were received.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. There are no tent or shack dwellers permanently in the County Borough. One caravan site of twenty-five acres on the outskirts of the town is licensed for use by not more than twelve trailer vans. Municipal car parks are occasionally used by variety artistes and circus performers.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials. No flock is manufactured in Northampton, but eight premises are registered where flock is used. No samples were taken.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs. Six formal samples were taken during 1953, all of which were satisfactory. No infringements were found relative to labelling and statutory statements.

Rodent Control. The full-time Rat-catcher works under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. His advice and help are at the service of the occupier of any dwellinghouse, free of charge, whereas a charge is made in respect of business premises.

Only poisons approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are used. These are zinc phosphide and arsenic for sewer treatments and Warfarin for surface infestations. Ratlime has proved very successful for mice ; it is a pity that some occupiers of food premises keep cats as a means of controlling mice.

1,493 visits were made by the Rat-catcher in addition to 598 visits by sanitary inspectors. There were 229 poison baitings and 1,871 rat bodies were picked up.

During the sewer treatment, a 10 per cent. test was made of all manholes in the County Borough, 231 manholes being baited, 84 of which shewed bait take. In the ensuing treatment, of 1,071 manholes treated, 657 had baits taken. A complete survey of manholes was also made ; 2,664 were examined, of which 457 were found to be unsuitable for baiting chiefly because they were on the main sewer with a deep flow. There can be no doubt that the biennial treatment of the sewers has a marked effect on the rat population, although it is not possible to estimate the total kill with any degree of accuracy.

IV.—HOUSING

Council Houses. The present position of the municipal housing schemes is given below :—

Number of Council houses completed during 1953	372
Total number of houses erected for the Corporation up to 31st December, 1953 (exclusive of 250 temporary bungalows)	7,111

Other Houses. The following private building operations relating to housing, plans for which had been approved by the Council, were carried out during the year :—

Dwellinghouses erected under licence (private enterprise)	153
Conversion of houses into flats (number of family units)	9
Conversion of house into house and club	1
Conversion of part of business premises to flat	2
Conversion of first floor of factory to flat	1
Conversion of house and shop to offices and flat	2
Conversion of house into offices	1
Extensions to dwellinghouses	55
New private garages	141

Unfit Houses. (Tables 7 and 8, pages 75 and 77). 74 individual houses were represented as unfit under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. 69 of these were occupied. Demolition Orders were made in 40 instances, undertakings not to relet were accepted in 10 cases, and Closing Orders under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, were made in 19 cases ; action relative to the remaining 5 was under consideration at the end of the year (*see* Table 7).

In addition, the basement flat of one house was represented under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, and a Closing Order made.

Table 8 gives the position at the end of 1953 of 87 houses represented prior to 1953.

In 2 cases outstanding Demolition Orders were rescinded and Closing Orders substituted under the procedure laid down in Section 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

45 houses were demolished during 1953. 188 persons from 62 families were rehoused from 59 houses. 27 represented houses were still occupied at the end of 1953.

Repairs to Property. Table 5 (page 73) gives particulars of the work of the sanitary inspectors relative to housing.

Property repairs are dealt with under the nuisance sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, 312 informal and 115 statutory notices being served. 35 informal and 40 statutory notices were outstanding at the end of 1953. The low rentals of controlled houses compared with the high cost of building repairs is a serious obstacle which must be overcome if the life of existing properties is to be preserved, otherwise their deterioration may outweigh the benefits of building new houses.

Legal proceedings were necessary on one occasion to enforce the repair of property. The owner was ordered to do the work and to pay four shillings costs.

Overcrowding. Cases of overcrowding continue to be brought to notice. There were 32 known cases, involving 190 persons, at the end of 1953, most of them being of a minor character when measured by legal standards.

Sufficiency of Supply of Houses. The waiting list for Council houses on 3rd February, 1954, comprised 3,723 applicants, classified as follows :—

Applicants living in rooms	2,096
Tenants of houses	752
Single persons awaiting marriage	37
For flats with one bedroom	379
For single persons' flats	34
Resident outside the County Borough	425
Total	3,723

Housing Statistics. The particulars for 1953 are set out below in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

1.—*Inspection of Dwellinghouses.*

(1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	793
(2) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	93
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	74
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	312

2.—*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	247
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3.—*Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	115
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	112
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	40
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	45†

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

E.—Proceedings under Sections 10 and 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	19
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were substituted for Demolition Orders	2

4.—*Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.*

A.—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	32
(2) Number of persons dwelling therein	190*
B.—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	34
C.—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	34
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	212*
D.—Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ..	Nil
E.—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	†

* Equivalent number of units=163½ and 173½ respectively.

† See paragraph on “Overcrowding” on page 36.

‡ Includes 13 houses not subject to Demolition Orders (8 of these were subject to Undertakings, 4 to Closing Orders, and 1 had been officially represented only).

Other Housing Matters. Reference should be made to Section III. “Sanitary Circumstances” for other information bearing on housing.

The estimated number of inhabited houses in the County Borough on 31st December, 1953, was 32,200. For a population of 104,000 this is equivalent to an average of 3·2 persons per house.

It is recorded that 1,686 questionnaires were answered for the Town Clerk’s Department under the Land Charges Act, 1925.

V.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies. At the end of 1953 the following entries were in the register kept under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 :—

Dairy premises	36
Milk distributors	144

Designated Milk. The following licences were in operation at the end of 1953 :—

Tuberculin Tested Milk

Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "tuberculin tested" (including six bottling establishments)	24
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Pasteurised Milk

Dealer's (pasteuriser's) licence authorising the use of the special designation "pasteurised"	7
Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "pasteurised"	90

Sterilised Milk

Dealer's licence authorising the use of the special designation "sterilised"	105
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

564 samples of milk were submitted for examination during 1953, viz : 162 tuberculin tested (pasteurised), 340 pasteurised, 51 sterilised, and 11 ordinary raw milk. 35 samples failed to pass the methylene blue test.

All the pasteurised and tuberculin tested (pasteurised) samples were submitted to the phosphatase test ; all reached the required standard. All the samples of sterilised milk were subjected to the turbidity test ; each was satisfactory.

Particulars regarding the defaulting samples were reported to the Area Milk Officer, as requested by the Ministry of Food.

The average daily throughput of milk in the County Borough is approximately 13,800 gallons, over 99·5 per cent. of which is heat treated.

Tubercle Bacilli in Milk. Two samples of ordinary raw milk were submitted in 1953 for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli. Both passed the guinea pig test and were thus satisfactory.

Meat and Food Inspection. (Tables 10 and 11, pages 81 and 82). This is primarily the duty of three sanitary inspectors, who work on a rota and also operate a district between them.

Because of the large number of pigs for slaughter, the Ministry of Food found it necessary to re-open Oliver Street slaughterhouse in August, in addition to the other three in use at Regent Square, Ransome Road, and the Cattlemarket. Despite the inconvenience caused by the Ministry using the slaughterhouses to capacity to supply other towns with meat, it was possible to maintain 100 per cent. inspection. At these four slaughterhouses, 49,311 animals were killed.

Twenty cases of *cysticercus bovis* (tapeworm) were found, but all lesions were singular and degenerated. It was not necessary to condemn any carcase beef on this account.

The transportation of meat is maintained at a high standard, every vehicle being washed out daily with an approved sterilising agent. Occasional complaints were received about the drivers' clothing, which on inspection was found to be unavoidably greasy due to handling home killed meat, and not dirty as may be alleged by the layman. All quarters of meat for export to other areas are wrapped in muslin ; if meat for local distribution were also wrapped, there would be very little room for improvement.

With the advent of Ministry of Food Memo. 3/Meat, a meeting was convened of all slaughtermen and officials of the contracting company, which the Chief Sanitary Inspector addressed on the implications of the memorandum.

1,767 tons of imported meat and offal were distributed from the two depots. Too much of this meat, particularly Canterbury lamb, Argentine pork, and wether mutton was in a store-stale condition. Although very little meat was condemned on this account, it would appear that food is being offered for sale which has deteriorated since arrival in this country. The main objection to meat in this condition is that it has a flavour distasteful to the palate.

Other foods condemned included a small percentage of the throughput of wet fish, due to delay on the railway during hot weather, and tins, jars, and packets of foodstuffs, mainly from provision merchants.

Seizure of Unsound Food. The Enforcement Officers of the Ministry of Food seized part of a sow carcase which, on inspection by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, was found to be fit for human consumption with the exception of a half head, which had lesions of active tuberculosis in the submaxillary lymphatic gland. This diseased portion (16 lb.) of the carcase was seized under Section 10 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the owner was subsequently fined £15 in the Borough Magistrates' Court.

Slaughterhouses. At the end of the year there were eleven slaughterhouses on the register, four of which were under the control of the Ministry of Food. Of the remainder, a few were used for the slaughter of private pigs, 16 animals being killed there during the year.

The need for a public abattoir increases annually, particularly having regard to the de-control of meat in 1954.

Slaughter of Animals. At the end of 1953 the names of 62 slaughtermen were on the register kept under the Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 and 1951.

Bakehouses. At the end of the year there were 45 bakehouses on the register, which were subject to routine inspection.

Butter and Margarine. Under Section 34 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the following registrations were in operation at the end of 1953 :—

Butter factories	3
Wholesale dealers in margarine	29

Ice Cream. At the end of 1953, the following registrations of ice cream premises were in operation :—

GROUP I.	Storing and selling prepacked ice cream	281
GROUP II.	Storing and selling bulk ice cream	30
GROUP III.	Manufacturing, storing, and selling cold mix ice cream	18
GROUP IV.	Manufacturing, storing, and selling hot mix ice cream	5
Total		334

74 samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Clean Food Campaigns. All types of food premises are regularly inspected, particular attention being paid to restaurants and other premises where food is prepared. The use of detergents and sterilising agents is encouraged. Generally speaking, food traders are aware of the potential danger, not only to health but to their livelihood, which may result from selling food which has been contaminated.

There is no clean food guild in Northampton, but food manufacturers and traders are visited by the sanitary inspectors, when the standards of hygiene are explained. Mainly, the standard is good and traders give every co-operation to the inspectors.

Altogether, 1,679 visits were made to food premises, which comprise :—

Grocery and dairy shops	433
Licensed premises	172
Butchers' shops	145
Restaurants, cafés, etc.	109
Greengrocers' and fruiterers' shops	108
Bread and flour confectioners' shops	55
Fishmongers' and poulterers' shops	44
Miscellaneous	38
Total	1,104

There are 334 premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to which 395 visits were made. 281 of these premises are registered for the sale of prepacked ice cream.

Condemned food, excluding carcase beef and other materials, is disposed of by incineration at the Corporation Destructor.

Food Poisoning. 14 cases of food poisoning were notified under Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in Northampton County Borough during 1953. This is equal to an attack-rate of 0·13 per thousand of the population, compared with 0·24 for England and Wales.

In the course of investigations, *Staphylococcus aureus* was isolated from imported canned peas left over from a meal partaken by six of these cases. Onset of symptoms (sickness, diarrhœa, and stomach pains) occurred about two hours after ingestion and the illnesses were mild. Five more persons were at risk.

Four other cases occurred in an outbreak confined to members of one household, but the cause of infection was not discovered.

In two of the four single cases, the organism *Salmonella typhi-murium* was isolated from fæces, but the vehicle of infection was not traced.

Sampling of Food and Drugs. (Table 12, page 83). 316 samples (including 88 informal) were taken by the sanitary inspectors under the Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1950. This work is done on a rota and samples are taken on a basis of 3 per 1,000 population, at least one-third being milks.

Sampling includes enforcement of the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the various food standards regulations.

The nature of the samples submitted to the Public Analyst is given in Table 12. 42 samples (13·3 per cent.) were found to be not genuine. The action taken regarding them was as follows :—

Sample No. 38 (informal). Milk whipping. Quite unfit for food, being old stock, discoloured and mouldy. Warning letters sent to retailer, wholesaler, and manufacturer.

No. 40 (informal). Butterscotch. Total fat content 1·9 per cent. against prescribed limit of 4·0 per cent. Warning letter sent to vendor.

No. 47. Rum and butter bon-bons. Total fat 2·8 per cent. against prescribed limit of 4·0 per cent. Vendor warned.

No. 49. Gin. Alcoholic strength 37·4° under proof; contained 3·7 per cent. excess water. Licensee fined £2.

No. 66. Celery cheese spread. Moisture 60·0 per cent.; fat in dry matter 43·5 per cent. Information sent to Ministry of Food.

No. 75. Shredded beef suet. Contained only 77·6 per cent. fat instead of 83·0 per cent. Vendor warned.

Nos. 213 (informal) and 244 (formal). Plum jam. These samples contained only 62·6 per cent. of soluble solids. Manufacturers warned.

The remaining defaulting samples, 34 in number, were all milks, mostly deficient in milk-fat. 33 of them were taken in transit from producers in an effort to trace the cause of the deficiencies in sample No. 92 and to follow up another defaulting sample towards the end of 1952. Letters of warning were sent to the producers and the circumstances were reported to the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Investigation disclosed that these deficiencies were in every case attributable to unsatisfactory milking times and in no case was there evidence of deliberate adulteration or extraction of fat.

The average fat content of 116 samples of genuine milk was 3·55 per cent. and the non-fatty solids 8·71 per cent., both figures being well above the minimum prescribed in the Sale of Milk Regulations, 1939, viz : 3·0 per cent. milk-fat and 8·5 per cent. non-fatty solids.

Preservatives were not detected in any of the milks sent for analysis.

Prosecutions. A food trader was prosecuted for not exhibiting in a legible and conspicuous manner his name and address on a market stall, as required by Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. He was fined ten shillings on each of two summonses.

The manufacturers were fined £15 and fifteen shillings costs on a summons under Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for selling a canned meat pudding containing a piece of string eight inches long.

Other prosecutions are dealt with in the following paragraphs :—

- “ Sampling of Food and Drugs,” page 42 ;
- “ Seizure of Unsound Food,” page 40 ;
- “ Repairs to Property,” page 35 ;
- “ Domestic Help,” page 25.

Shell-fish. Mussels sold in this County Borough come mainly from Boston and King’s Lynn, a large proportion being imported. Routine samples of raw and cooked mussels are taken on arrival for bacteriological examination. If the report is unsatisfactory, the appropriate Medical Officer of Health is informed. 26 samples were sent for bacteriological examination in 1953 and found to be satisfactory.

VI.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Measles. 391 notifications of measles were received. The attack-rate for Northampton was 3·76, while for England and Wales it was 12·36. There were no deaths.

Rubella. This disease, commonly called German measles, is not usually notifiable, but information concerning its incidence amongst the school population is collected week by week from returns of suspected illness rendered by head teachers. It appears from these returns that 1953 was an epidemic year, the cases mainly occurring in the first three months :—

YEAR	SUSPECTED CASES REPORTED FROM SCHOOLS
1949	7
1950	10
1951	23
1952	879
1953	1,047
Total	<hr/> 1,966 <hr/>

There is evidence that many adults were also affected.

Whooping Cough. 379 notifications of whooping cough were received. The attack-rate was 3·64 ; for England and Wales it was 3·58. There were no deaths.

Prophylactic whooping cough vaccine and a combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic are available for the use of general practitioners free of charge on application to the Health Office.

Influenza. This is not a notifiable disease, consequently knowledge of its incidence is not very exact. Seventeen deaths were certified as due to influenza, giving a death-rate of 0·16, the same as that for England and Wales.

Acute Poliomyelitis. This disease is commonly called “infantile paralysis.” Cases are notified as “paralytic” or “non-paralytic.” “Paralytic” means that there are, or have been, signs of weakness or paralysis of muscles, either permanent or transient. “Non-paralytic” denotes that there have been no such signs.

12 cases were notified, equal to an attack-rate of 0·12 (England and Wales 0·11). 11 were classed as paralytic and 1 as non-paralytic. 3 were not ordinarily resident in Northampton.

Meningococcal Infection. 4 cases were notified from Northampton General Hospital, all being admitted from outside the County Borough.

Acute Encephalitis. 2 cases, both infective, were notified. 1 referred to a non-resident.

Malaria. One notification of malaria was received. It related to a relapse in a former Serviceman who contracted malaria whilst serving in India in 1944.

Erysipelas. 28 cases of erysipelas were notified. The local attack-rate was 0·27, while for England and Wales it was 0·14.

Smallpox. No suspected cases of smallpox came to notice, although several contacts were under surveillance in the County Borough during 1953.

Vaccination. Under the arrangements in accordance with the National Health Service there were 423 vaccinations (including 252 under one year of age) and 227 re-vaccinations during 1953. No cases were specially reported of generalised vaccinia or post-vaccinal encephalomyelitis, nor were there any deaths from other complications of vaccination.

Scarlet Fever. 181 notifications of scarlet fever were received. The local attack-rate was 1·74, while that for England and Wales was 1·39. 88 of these cases were treated in Harborough Road Hospital.

Diphtheria. No cases of diphtheria were notified in 1953. This means that only one case (*see* page 53 of the 1952 Report) has been recorded in the County Borough in the last five years. The last diphtheria death occurred in 1946.

Immunisation against Diphtheria. The number of children under five years of age immunised against diphtheria was 953 ; similarly, 155 children aged between five and fifteen were dealt with, making a total of 1,108 who completed the course during 1953. 1,076 children received reinforcing injections.

There is record that 3,630 children under five years of age, of an estimated population of 7,500 in this age-group, had completed a full course of immunisation up to 31st December, 1953, equal to 48·4 per cent. In the age-group five to fourteen years inclusive the number immunised was 12,395 out of an estimated population of 14,800, or 83·7 per cent. Total for all children under fifteen years of age : number immunised = 16,025 out of an estimated population of 22,300, a percentage of 71·9 (immunity index 38·5). The immunity index is the proportion of children who have had a course of immunisation within the last five years.

Immunising material, including a combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic, is available to general practitioners free of charge on application to the Health Office.

Pneumonia. 95 notifications of primary or post-influenzal pneumonia were received. The local attack-rate was 0·91, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 0·84. 25 deaths were ascribed to pneumonia, giving a local death-rate from this cause of 0·24 ; for England and Wales the rate was 0·55.

Puerperal Pyrexia. 113 notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received. The attack-rate per thousand total births was 73·57, compared with 18·23 for England and Wales. Only 56 of these cases were residents

of Northampton County Borough. All but five of the women were treated in hospital. 98 of the confinements had taken place in institutions and 15 at home.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. No case of ophthalmia was notified.

Infective Jaundice. It was stated in the 1952 Report (page 54) that 128 cases of infective jaundice had been reported and it was shewn that the greatest incidence had occurred in October, November, and December, 1952.

The monthly incidence in 1953 is given below :—

January	20
February	14
March	16
April	7
May	13
June	18
July	15
August	3
September	3
October	5
November	2
December	5
Total	<hr/> 121 <hr/>

Venereal Diseases. The Special Clinic for venereal diseases held at Northampton General Hospital is under the administrative control of the Northampton and District Hospital Management Committee.

The times at which the clinics are held at Northampton General Hospital are given on page 23.

During 1953, new cases from Northampton County Borough totalled 123 (6 syphilis, 32 gonorrhœa, and 85 other conditions).

Cancer. The number of cancer deaths in Northampton during 1953 was 208, giving a local death-rate from this cause of 2·00 ; for England and Wales it was 1·99.

Bacteriology. Table 15, page 85, gives particulars of clinical bacteriology. All bacteriological work for the Health Department is done at the Public Health Laboratory, Northampton General Hospital.

Disinfection. The number of articles dealt with at the Disinfecting Station, St. Andrew's Road, was 134.

Scabies. Facilities are available for the treatment of scabies. Seven cases were treated.

VII.—TUBERCULOSIS

General Remarks. (Table 14, page 84). A comparison of the figures in Table 14 relating to deaths from tuberculosis and notifications of tuberculosis during the past twenty years is recommended to all who are interested in public health. Already the newspapers include from time to time such headings as “Tuberculosis on the Decline” and follow this by vague prophesies that tuberculosis will be eradicated in the next few years.

It cannot be denied that such reports make agreeable reading, but they give a very false impression of the actual position. Hence the reason for recommending a study of the figures, for by so doing readers will be able to see for themselves the real facts :—

- (1) Deaths from tuberculosis are rapidly decreasing ;
- (2) The notification rate remains high—in some cases higher than twenty years ago—and shews no real evidence of decreasing ;
- (3) The number of tuberculous persons on the Chest Clinic register is likely to increase.

With such facts before us, it seems opportune to review the facts as we know them.

Quite briefly, the two great sources of infection are :—

- (1) The case with germs of tuberculosis in the sputum ;
- (2) Infected milk and its edible by-products.

Adequate pasteurisation of milk, which is compulsory in many areas, can quickly eliminate this source of infection. The problem of the positive-sputum case is much more complex. The real danger presented by such persons may be judged from the fact that statistics reveal that amongst the home contacts of such persons tuberculosis is ten times more common than amongst the rest of the population.

Against this rather disturbing background may be portrayed the higher lights, which include the very hopeful possibility of complete recovery for many of those who contract tuberculosis, such recoveries being brought about by treatment with antibiotics, chemotherapy, and surgery. Prevention also is playing its part in alleviating much of the distress resulting from tuberculosis for it is now believed that vaccination of uninfected persons with B.C.G. will almost eliminate severe illness following primary infection with the tubercle bacillus.

Having outlined some of the known facts it now remains to be shewn how the problems arising from tuberculosis are being and can be tackled in Northampton County Borough.

Highest priority must unquestionably be accorded to the unremitting search to discover every case of tuberculosis. Until this has been done only half of the problem can be tackled. Having discovered a case of infectious tuberculosis, the aim should then be to bring about a complete cure of the patient and as far as possible to protect the home contacts and others from infection.

During 1953, there were 75 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis (including 6 where death occurred before notification). Investigation disclosed that there were 235 home contacts of these 75 persons. 226 (96·2 per cent.) of these contacts were persuaded to be examined at the Chest Clinic. This exceptionally high proportion has been achieved by getting the tuberculosis health visitors to arrange for the Chest Physician to visit the home and to meet the family and there in the home to discuss with all the contacts the benefits of being examined, to weed out any already infected, and of prevention by B.C.G. vaccination for those not infected. No parents refused B.C.G. vaccination for their children during the year and this satisfactory state of affairs must also be partly ascribed to the good accruing from these visits.

This year the campaign has not ended with the examination of the home contacts, but has been carried a stage further and now includes the examination, where possible, of all close contacts, whether they be in the classroom, office, or workshop. Working along these lines a further 1,200 close contacts of the original 75 cases have been examined and X-rayed. Amongst this group of 1,200 the morbidity was found to be definitely higher than in a random group of the general public and it would seem that the usefulness of this new approach is fully justified. In previous years the very helpful collaboration between the Housing Committee and the Department for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis has already been acknowledged, and is still continuing, so that wherever tuberculosis and crowding co-exist a practical and sympathetic solution of the problem is usually possible.

Earlier in these remarks, attention has been drawn to the added risk in the homes where cases of infectious tuberculosis exist. This risk, which is present in homes of the known cases of tuberculosis, is probably a good deal greater in the homes where undiagnosed cases of tuberculosis are present.

Judging by the experience gained in previous years, it now seems that general practitioners are unlikely to refer a much higher proportion of their cases to the Chest Clinic as suspected cases of tuberculosis. Attention must be focussed, therefore, on getting a greater response to the mass X-ray surveys and also by attracting more patients to the "Odelca" Miniature X-ray Unit, which should be used by the public and general practitioners for patients with mild symptoms which hardly seem to justify the expense of a full-size X-ray examination. By using the "Odelca" Unit satisfactory sifting of the normal chests can be carried out at a film cost as low as fourpence per patient. Moreover,

this method cuts out the time-consuming business of booking an appointment and then waiting days or even weeks for the X-ray, as the miniature films can usually be run off the same day as the patient presents himself for examination.

So far not more than 28,000 out of a population of 104,000 have attended for miniature films at the mass X-ray surveys. Every effort must be made to double this response.

Details of the sessions held at the Chest Clinic are given on page 23.

The following relates to some of the anti-tuberculosis work during 1953 :—

Consultations	2,738
New out-patients	3,110
Home contacts of new cases	235
Number of these contacts examined	226
Contacts examined of patients previously notified	630
Mantoux tests	1,089
Jelly tests	19
X-ray examinations : Radiographic film	5,325
Fluorographic screen	1,442
A.P. (artificial pneumothorax) and P.P. (pneumoperitoneum) refills	1,364
Pathological specimens	897
Home visits : By nurses	1,109
By medical staff	319
Total number of attendances by patients	8,642

Notifications. (Tables 16 to 18, pages 85 to 87). During the year, 83 persons were notified for the first time as suffering from tuberculosis. This is the lowest annual number since compulsory notification commenced about forty years ago. Of these, 69 cases were respiratory and 14 non-respiratory. Their classification and age-groups are shewn in Tables 16 and 18. In addition, 8 cases already notified in other areas came into the County Borough.

Table 17 gives the occupations of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis.

Deaths. (Table 13, page 84). The number of deaths and the death-rates from tuberculosis per thousand of the population in 1953 were as follows :—

	NO. OF DEATHS	DEATH- RATES
Respiratory tuberculosis	21	0·20
Other forms	4	0·04
Totals	25	0·24

The total rate of 0·24 is the lowest on record for the County Borough.

The death-rate for all forms for England and Wales in 1953 was 0·20 (respiratory 0·18, other forms 0·02), which is also the lowest recorded.

Table 13 gives the total tuberculosis death-rates for Northampton and for England and Wales during the last ten years.

Revision of Register. The names of 40 notified persons were removed from the register in 1953, as the patients were regarded as having recovered.

On 31st December, 1953, there were 903 names on the Medical Officer of Health's register, 755 relating to respiratory and 148 to non-respiratory patients.

The number on the register of the Chest Clinic on that date was 827.

Extra Nourishment. Extra nourishment in the form of milk was granted by the Health Committee to 4 patients. Additional milk and other extra nourishment were also provided through the funds of the Care Committee to 70 patients.

Park Workers. At the beginning of 1953, four men were employed on light duties under this scheme. One ceased work, leaving a total of three at the end of the year.

Housing. Housing has always been an important factor in the incidence and spread of tuberculosis. The co-operation of the Housing Committee in providing better living conditions, therefore, is invaluable. In December, 1953, the number of tuberculous persons living in Council houses was 341.

Care Work. The need for care work is apparent and much valuable help is provided by the Care Committee. The Christmas Seal Sale realised the sum of £262 4s. 7d. The Chairman's special Christmas Appeal brought in £16 10s. 6d. The annual grant from the County Borough Council was continued at £350; this was augmented by voluntary donations to the extent of £117 19s. 6d. The money has gone to the assistance of patients and their families in providing clothing, bedding, footwear, extra nourishment, and medical comforts. In addition, the usual gifts were made at Christmas. Assistance given in other directions is mentioned in the paragraphs which follow.

Almoner's Department. The Almoner continues to deal with the social and financial problems of patients, both at the Chest Clinic and at Creaton Sanatorium. Normally, she sees new cases at the Clinic before their admission to the Sanatorium to discuss any difficulties with them. She interviewed 459 patients at the Chest Clinic and paid 249 home visits.

The development of holiday arrangements for patients with long-standing illness has continued. With financial help from the Care Committee, a party of seven men and women went to Bournemouth for a fortnight and two to the Isle of Wight. Eight others were helped to make their own arrangements, or were sent to convalescent homes, and the widow of a patient was sent away for a change after a long period of nursing.

A small Club and Handicrafts Class, meeting weekly, has been started for patients not well enough to work. The Care Committee are meeting the cost of renting a room and have made a grant for the purchase of the necessary equipment and materials for handicrafts. Both men and women patients are welcome. The Education Committee provided a teacher towards the end of the year whilst there was no occupational therapist on the staff of the Health Department. It is hoped that the Club will provide a friendly meeting-place for patients who may be finding life rather dull.

Rehabilitation. Details are given below of 61 patients known to the Chest Clinic to have returned to work during 1953 :—

Work found by the Ministry of Labour	16
New work found by patients themselves	11
Work resumed with former employer	32
Work found by Youth Employment Bureau	2
	—
Total	61
	—

Once more it will be noticed that most patients on recovery are able to return to their former employment.

Mass Miniature Radiography. Extracts from the report on the fifth survey held in Northampton County Borough from February to July, 1952, were given on pages 59 to 62 of the previous Annual Report. No survey took place in 1953.

The Unit is managed by the Oxford Regional Hospital Board and operates from headquarters in Northampton.

Comparative figures for each of the surveys in Northampton County Borough are recorded below :—

SURVEY	DATE	PERSONS EXAMINED	ACTIVE TOTAL	CASES FOUND NEW ONLY	NEW CASES PER 1,000 EXAMINED
First	1945/6	14,544	79	76	5·22
Second	1946/7	12,242	36	34	2·78
Third	1947/8	12,585	25	25	1·99
Fourth	1949	13,493	29	27	2·00
Fifth	1952	27,962	55	55	1·97
		—	—	—	—
	Totals	80,826	224	217	2·68
		—	—	—	—

B.C.G. Vaccination. The value of B.C.G. vaccination for contacts who have not been infected by the tubercle bacillus is now believed to have been proved beyond doubt. By vaccination of the uninfected members of households where tuberculosis is known to have occurred, a great measure of protection is given against the dangers of the form of disease which may arise when primary infection occurs.

During the year, 143 persons were vaccinated with B.C.G. vaccine.

Tuberculosis Regulations, etc. It was not found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relate to persons suffering from respiratory tuberculosis employed in the milk trade.

There was no case of compulsory removal to hospital, under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, of any person suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract who was in an infectious state and without proper lodging or accommodation and who was a serious risk of infection to other persons.

VIII.—MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

Infant Mortality. (Tables 19 and 20, pages 87 and 88). There were 35 infant deaths, the infant mortality being 23·2 per thousand live births registered, which is the third lowest rate ever recorded in Northampton County Borough. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 26·8 and for the great towns 30·8. Table 19 gives the infant mortality for England and Wales and Northampton for the last ten years for comparison.

The infant deaths are classified by cause in Table 20.

Neo-natal Mortality. 23 of the 35 deaths mentioned in the preceding paragraph were of infants under four weeks of age. The neo-natal mortality per thousand live births was thus 15·3, compared with 16·4 in 1952.

The neo-natal mortality for England and Wales was 17·7 in 1953.

Notification of Births. (Tables 21 and 22, pages 88 and 89). 1,506 live births were registered, the birth-rate being 14·5, compared with 15·5 for England and Wales. 30 stillbirths were also registered.

It is a statutory requirement under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, that births should be notified within thirty-six hours to the Medical Officer of Health by any person in attendance upon the mother at the time of, or within six hours after, the birth. This, of course, is in addition to registration.

2,597 live births and 79 stillbirths were notified, making a total of 2,676 (*see* Table 21). Table 22 shews the sources of notification.

1,438 births were investigated by the health visitors ; 2 of these were non-notified. They also visited 14 other births but no information was available. The remaining births occurred either in larger houses, or the mothers, resident outside the County Borough, came here for their confinement and returned home later.

529 babies (including stillborn babies) were born of primiparæ.

Stillbirths. 30 stillbirths were registered, giving a rate of 0·29 per thousand of the population, compared with 0·35 for England and Wales. The rate expressed per thousand total births (including stillbirths) registered was 19·5, while for England and Wales it was 22·4.

79 stillbirths were notified, 49 relating to mothers from surrounding areas. The remaining 30 stillbirths were investigated. 10 of these occurred in primigravida. In 21 cases labour was premature.

CAUSES OF STILLBIRTH

Maternal	6
Acute toxic vomiting (twins)	2
Pre-eclamptic toxæmia	1
Toxæmia	1
Hypertension	1
Chronic nephritis	1
Fœtal	7
Anencephaly	3
Hydrocephaly	2
Meningocele	1
Congenital heart	1
Cause unknown	5
Fœtus fresh	4
Fœtus macerated	1
Accidents of labour	12
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	5
Transverse lie	2
Extended breech—no ante-natal care	1
Post-maturity—fœtal distress	1
Disproportion—fœtal distress (Cæsarean section)	1
Uterine inertia—forceps	1
Dystocia—forceps	1

Health Visiting. Thirteen whole-time health visitors were on the staff at the end of 1953, which was three below establishment. Their time was also partly devoted to work in the School Health Service and tuberculosis visiting under a co-ordinated scheme.

Their work is summarised below in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

To expectant mothers :—	
First visits	662
Total visits	801
To children under one year of age :—	
First visits	1,450
Total visits	12,078
To children age one and under two years :—	
Total visits	4,254
To children age two but under five years :—	
Total visits	8,385
To tuberculous households :—	
Total visits	1,022
To other cases :—	
Total visits	366
To families or households :—	
Total number visited	6,438

Child Welfare Centres. Table 23 (page 89) gives the average attendances and consultations at the fifteen child welfare centres.

A summary of the 1953 statistics is given below :—

Number of children who first attended a centre of this Local Health Authority and who at their first attendance were under one year of age	1,225
Total number of children under five years of age who attended	3,258
Total attendances	39,973
Average number of children per weekly session	57

Voluntary Work. The Northampton Maternity and Infant Welfare Voluntary Association continue to work well under their respective leaders.

The Mothers' Club still holds its meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings at St. Giles' Street Centre from September to March,

A successful evening was arranged for fathers and mothers on 10th March, 1953, with Miss Elizabeth Westley speaking on "Speech Therapy."

A fathers' meeting was arranged by Dr. R. J. Donaldson on 24th April, 1953.

The Annual Meeting held on Friday, 26th June, 1953, in the Guild-hall was addressed by Dr. Dennis H. Geffen, Medical Officer of Health to the Metropolitan Boroughs of St. Pancras and Hampstead. His subject was "Child Welfare."

A Mothercraft Exhibition was held at St. Giles' Street Centre on 27th and 28th October, 1953. The trophy for the best stand exhibit was awarded to Friday Central for "Safety in the Home."

Mrs. Fiddes succeeded Mrs. Frampton as Leader of Friday Central : Mrs. Frampton had served as a voluntary helper for 37 years. Mrs. Woolnough retired from Dallington Centre and her place was taken by Mrs. Cave.

Several mothers were sent on holiday and Christmas gifts were given through the Association's Social Service Fund.

Delegates were sent to the London Conference for Maternity and Child Welfare.

Maternity Homes. There are three registered nursing homes in the County Borough (*see* list on page 27). Thirteen visits of inspection were paid to these homes by the Assistant Medical Officer.

Midwives. 43 midwives were employed in Northampton County Borough on 31st December, 1953, as follows :—

Queen's Institute of District Nursing (including 2 on administrative staff)	7
St. Edmund's Hospital	8
Barratt Maternity Home	23
Other maternity homes	4
Independent domiciliary midwife	1
Total	43

Medical aid was not summoned by any midwife under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1951, during 1953.

The Northampton Branch of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing undertake domiciliary midwifery on behalf of the County Borough Council by agreement under Section 23 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The Queen's Nurses attended 361 cases as maternity nurses or midwives during 1953.

Administration of Analgesics. 36 of the above midwives held a certificate of competence in the use of gas-air analgesic apparatus. 29 of these were employed in institutions and seven were in the service of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing.

Out of the 361 cases attended by Queen's Nurses in 1953, analgesics were administered in 307 (85·0 per cent.). The Institute had six sets of apparatus in use.

Ante-natal and Post-natal Work. No regular ante-natal and post-natal care is given by the Local Authority ; casual cases only are seen. 7 ante-natal and 4 post-natal cases were seen in 1953. 731 patients attended for blood tests.

Cases booked for home confinement receive ante-natal care at the Queen's Institute of District Nursing Clinics and are also seen by their family doctor. 2,385 attendances were made by 377 expectant mothers in 206 sessions during 1953.

All cases booked for confinement at the Barratt Maternity Home and St. Edmund's Maternity Unit receive their ante-natal care at the Barratt Home Clinics.

Maternal Mortality. (Table 24, page 90). According to the tabulation received from the Registrar-General, one maternal death was assigned to Northampton County Borough during 1953. The maternal mortality was, therefore, 0·65 per thousand total births, compared with 0·76 for England and Wales. Table 24 gives the rates for the last ten years for comparison.

Dental Treatment. (Table 25, page 90). Children under school age and expectant and nursing mothers are treated by the two dental officers. Two sessions or more each week are set apart for this work.

Table 25 shews the numbers dealt with during 86 sessions and the forms of treatment.

A qualified radiographer takes all radiographs. The dental officers examine them and on rare occasions seek confirmation from Northampton General Hospital.

Dentures are made at a local prosthetic laboratory.

Care of Premature Infants. 103 premature infants (*i.e.*, babies weighing 5½ lb. or less at birth) relating to mothers normally resident in Northampton County Borough were notified and were the subject of special investigation.

Of the 20 premature babies born at home, two were transferred to hospital ; all survived the first month of life.

Of the 83 born in hospital or nursing home, 12 were stillborn and 55 survived the first month of life.

These figures shew that 82·4 per cent. of the County Borough premature babies born alive survived the first month.

Cots, bedding, blankets, hot water bottles, and clothing are available on loan for such infants nursed at home.

Immunisation. The number of children under five years of age who completed the full course of injections during the year was :—

Diphtheria	138
Combined diphtheria and whooping cough	774
Whooping cough	33

The above figures include those immunised by general practitioners as well as those dealt with at clinics under the maternity and child welfare scheme.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and Their Children. There are no special arrangements, but each health visitor is responsible for those residing in her district and co-operates with voluntary agencies working in this field. Where desirable, the children are admitted to day nurseries.

(See also "Moral Welfare" on page 70).

Day Nurseries. There are two nurseries—Spencer and Kingsthorpe Park—for children under two years of age. They have accommodation for 70 children. The average attendance was 46 and at the end of the year there were 55 children on the registers. 94 visits (including six medical inspections) were paid to these two nurseries by the Assistant Medical Officer and, in addition, all children were medically inspected before admission.

48 visits (including three medical inspections) were also paid to Rawlings Residential Nursery managed by the Children Committee.

Nurseries and Child Minders. At the end of 1953, two daily minders (providing for 20 children) were on the register kept under the Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948. Regular visits were paid by members of the staff.

Fruit Juices and Cod Liver Oil. These vitamin supplements for expectant mothers and children under five years of age are issued from the Food Office, Fish Street, and by voluntary workers from infant welfare centres on the outskirts of the town.

The same arrangements apply to the issue of National Dried Milk.

IX.—MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Deficiency—Ascertainment. During 1953, thirteen new cases were notified from the following sources :—

Local Education Authority	11
Other sources	2
	—
Total	13
	—

These were dealt with as follows :—

Placed under statutory supervision	11
Placed under voluntary supervision	1
Admitted to an institution	1
	—
Total	13
	—

Statistics. There were 416 cases on the register at 31st December, 1953 ; these were classed as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
In institutions and homes	63	68	131
Under Guardianship Orders	1	1	2
Under statutory supervision	98	101	199
Under voluntary supervision	28	27	55
In “ Place of Safety ”	—	1	1
	—	—	—
County Borough cases	190	198	388
On licence from institutions (not Northampton County Borough cases)	—	28	28
	—	—	—
Totals	190	226	416
	—	—	—

Supervision. Local health authorities are responsible for the care of mentally defective persons, *i.e.*, their ascertainment, supervision, and training.

The main channel of ascertainment is the local education authority and only a few cases are referred from other sources. There is still, however, the odd case of an elderly defective who left school years ago, or never attended any school, and who has subsequently been cared for by relatives ; it is only when these relatives become too old to manage any longer that such a case comes to light. Though such cases are few, a difficult problem is presented, as usually institutional care is an urgent necessity.

Most mental defectives known to this Authority continue to live in their own homes and require visits of supervision. In the more difficult cases, frequent visits are paid and efforts made to advise parents regarding occupational interests and general treatment. There are also cases where the home care and conditions are so good that only an occasional visit of inquiry is necessary. Parents are encouraged to come to the Mental Health Officers for any advice or assistance in the various difficulties which may arise. The general behaviour of defectives under supervision has been good. Efforts are made to place defectives in employment and, where unemployable, the Mental Health Officers assist in obtaining any allowance to which they may be entitled. Often defectives can earn a reasonable wage, but are quite incapable of laying out their money wisely and in this respect the Mental Health Officers can be of assistance.

The purpose of community care must be to retain patients as long as possible in their own homes and to arrange institutional care only where circumstances demand it.

Licence. At the end of the year, 28 female patients from Borocourt, near Reading, were on licence to St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, where they were employed in domestic work.

The following were also on licence :—

	INSTITUTION	REMARKS
1 man	Bromham Hospital	Living with relatives and working at mills
1 woman	Bromham Hospital	Resident domestic work
1 woman	Borocourt	Resident domestic work
1 woman	St. Edmund's Hospital	Resident domestic work
1 woman	St. Edmund's Hospital	Living with relatives and working in factory
1 man	St. Edmund's Hospital	Living with relatives and receiving blind pension
1 woman	Leavesden Hospital	Living with relatives and working in laundry

These patients were supervised and periodically reported on to their appropriate authorities. Every endeavour is made to gain their confidence and an adequate relationship between them and the Mental Health Officers is something which takes time to achieve and should not be hurried.

Guardianship. During 1953, one female was discharged from the Order under the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, and financial responsibility was assumed by the National Assistance Board. Friendly guidance is available if the patient or ex-guardian requires advice.

At the request of the Superintendent of St. Edmund's Hospital, Northampton, a Varying Order under Section 7 (2) (a) of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, as amended, was obtained in respect of a female patient on licence and she was placed under the Guardianship of her mother. The patient supplements her National Assistance Board allowance by working a few hours weekly.

Institutional Accommodation. Eight new cases were admitted to the following establishments :—

Borocourt, near Reading	1
Pewsey Hospital, Pewsey	4
St. Edmund's Hospital, Northampton	3
Total	8

Although local health authorities are responsible for the initial care, certification, and conveyance to institutions of patients suffering from mental deficiency, the provision of accommodation is not their responsibility—a fact not generally realised.

Work under the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938, is seriously handicapped by the shortage of accommodation. The waiting list for institutional care grows longer ; new cases are added, but very few are taken off.

Sixteen cases were urgently awaiting institutional care on 31st December, 1953 ; these were classed as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Children under 16 years	5	5	10
Adults (over 16 years)	3	3	6
Totals	8	8	16

These figures relate to mental defectives within the community and not to mentally defective patients accommodated in St. Crispin Hospital, Duston, Northampton, under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890—1930, who should be detained in mental deficiency institutions. At the end of the year, there were 37 cases in this hospital awaiting removal.

Patients with suitable homes were granted holiday leave at varying times throughout the year. A report on the suitability of the home to which the patient will proceed is usually submitted to the medical superintendent of the institution where the patient is detained before holiday leave is granted.

Two patients were admitted to " Places of Safety " under Section 15, Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, as immediate institutional care was imperative. One patient was subsequently certified under the Lunacy Act, 1890, and

transferred to St. Crispin Hospital, Duston, Northampton, where he was still detained at the end of the year ; the other was still awaiting permanent institutional care on 31st December, 1953.

At the end of the year, 131 Northampton County Borough patients were accommodated at the following establishments :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Borocourt, near Reading (and ancillary institutions)	5	15	20
Brentry Colony, Bristol	1	—	1
Bromham Hospital, near Bedford	26	15	41
Ellen Terry Home, Reigate	1	1	2
Hortham Colony, Bristol	1	—	1
House of Help, Bath	—	3	3
Manor House, Aylesbury	4	2	6
Miss A. Slayton's Home, Bedford	—	1	1
Mount Tabor Approved Home, Wingrave	—	1	1
Pewsey Hospital, Pewsey (and ancillary institutions)	6	4	10
Princess Christian's Farm Colony, Hildenborough	1	1	2
Rampton Hospital, Retford	7	2	9
Rockhall House, Bath	—	1	1
St. Agnes' Approved Home, Caversham..	1	—	1
St. Edmund's Hospital, Northampton ..	4	9	13
St. Francis' School, Buntingford	1	—	1
St. Mary's Home, Alton	—	1	1
St. Mary's Home, Buxted	—	1	1
St. Mary's Home, Painswick	—	1	1
Stoke Park Colony, Bristol	4	4	8
Totterdown Hall, Weston-super-Mare ..	—	1	1
Whittington Hall, Chesterfield	—	5	5
Winslow Hospital, Winslow	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Totals	63	68	131
	—	—	—

Handicraft Centre. Children attending were as follows :—

	JUNIORS (under 16 years)		SENIORS (over 16 years)		TOTALS
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
On register 1/1/53	13	11	8	15	47
Admitted during 1953..	2	2	—	—	4
Left in 1953	—	1	—	—	1
Attained 16 years	—1	—	+1	—	—
On register 31/12/53 ..	14	12	9	15	50

There was a waiting list of 14 juniors at the end of the year.

Midday meals are brought in from Regent Square School Canteen and the charge of sevenpence per meal was increased to ninepence on 27th April, 1953, in respect of meals supplied to seniors.

The Northampton Branch of the National Association of Parents of Backward Children, formed in March, 1952, at the request of some parents, continued their meetings throughout the year. Meetings are held on the first Thursday in each month at the Handicraft Centre and interested persons, whether parents of a backward child or not, are always welcome.

A Coronation mug was distributed to each of the fifty pupils on the register on 22nd May, 1953, when the Centre closed for the Whitsuntide and Coronation holidays.

The annual outing was on 12th June and three coach loads, including the Centre staff, the children, parents, and friends, toured London to see the Coronation decorations. The party returned via Whipsnade, where high tea was served ; the children had time to see some of the animals.

An Open Day for the Health Committee and friends was held on 12th November, when the usual procedure was followed. Goods to the value of £10 16s. 0d. were sold.

Mrs. M. Woollven, H.M. Inspector of the Board of Control, arrived on 12th November whilst preparations for the Open Day were in progress. Owing to this, Mrs. Woollven was unable to observe a normal day's work. Her report was received later.

The year ended with a Christmas Party on 21st December, which was again on the usual lines. Thanks are due to very many kind friends for gifts in kind and money, also to those who gave their time to help in the kitchen.

Sales for the year amounted to £153.

Special School After-care Committee. The Voluntary After-care Committee help and advise parents of educationally sub-normal children who are not notified to the Mental Health Sub-Department.

Domiciliary visits are paid to see the persons concerned, as well as their parents, and brief records of the visits are kept by the Honorary Secretary (Miss D. R. Harbard).

A representative of the Youth Employment Bureau serves on the Committee and gives practical advice and help in placing young persons in suitable employment.

A benevolent fund provides small gifts in times of sickness.

Lunacy—Statistics. The following summarises the work of this section of the Mental Health Sub-Department during 1953 :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Examined by Doctor and Magistrate ..	9	6	15
Certified and removed to St. Crispin Hospital	9	4	13
Certified and removed to other hospitals	—	2	2
Not certified	—	—	—
Cases examined by Magistrate	35	38	73
Admitted to St. Crispin Hospital on 14-Day Orders	32	32	64
No Order made	3	6	9
Admitted to St. Crispin Hospital on 3-Day Orders	16	13	29
Transfers from St. Andrew's Hospital to St. Crispin Hospital (certified)	1	1	2
Transfers from St. Andrew's Hospital to other hospitals (certified)	4	2	6

It will be observed from the statistics that the majority of admissions to St. Crispin Hospital, where it has been necessary to resort to compulsory action, have continued to be made by means of Orders under Section 21 (14-Day Justice's Order) and, in emergency, under Section 20 (3-Day Order) of the Lunacy Act, 1890, as amended by the National Health Service Act, 1946. By experience, it has been found that this method is more acceptable to all concerned, giving the patient every opportunity to settle down and the hospital similar opportunity to observe the patient before a decision need be made on ultimate disposal, always bearing in mind the best interests of the patient.

The number of admissions as voluntary patients to St. Crispin Hospital is not included in the statistics, but many have been admitted as a result of contacts from various sources and dealt with in this way rather than by admission on Orders.

Senile patients continue to present a problem to all connected with mental health. Whenever possible, in suitable cases, these have been admitted to St. Edmund's Hospital Geriatric Unit, with the co-operation of the Matron and the Secretary.

Co-ordination. Excellent liaison is maintained with the consultant psychiatrists attending the Psychiatric Out-patient Clinics now held at Northampton General Hospital on three days weekly and with members of the medical profession practising in Northampton County Borough.

Appreciation is due to St. John Ambulance Brigade, who provide the ambulance service on behalf of the Local Health Authority and who have continued to give every help, co-operation, and prompt removal of patients.

Work undertaken in the Community. (1) *Mental Deficiency.* During 1953, seven patients were admitted to establishments for varying periods of short-term care in accordance with the Council's amended proposals under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946. One of these was a child whom it was necessary to admit to a Regional Hospital Board institution, as the characteristics of the case were such that care in a private home was inappropriate. The other six were admitted to private homes and the assessed charge paid by the respective parents.

(2) *Lunacy.* The provision of prevention, care and after-care services under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, has continued throughout the year.

Assistance has been given in rehabilitation, in finding or changing employment and, wherever possible, in relieving patients of domestic, financial, and other matters which may be causing them anxiety and concern.

X.—WELFARE

Welfare Services. The National Assistance Act, 1948, which came into operation on 5th July, 1948, made provision for comprehensive services falling into two main groups :—

- (1) National Assistance, taking the form chiefly of cash allowances, to persons in need ;
- (2) Residential accommodation for the aged, the infirm, and others who require care and attention to be provided in this way, with special welfare services for the blind, deaf or dumb, and other persons who are substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury, or congenital deformity.

The assistance rendered under heading (1) is the concern of the National Assistance Board.

The Local Authority are responsible for the services under heading (2). The Council's schemes under Section 21 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 (provision of residential accommodation) and under Sections 29 and 30 (provision of welfare services for handicapped persons) were approved by the Minister of Health in May, 1949.

The Council decided on 5th November, 1951, not to make any schemes at present for welfare services for handicapped persons other than the blind and partially sighted. The Medical Officer of Health had presented a report to the appropriate committees on Ministry of Health Circular 32/51 dated 28th August, 1951. Provision has been made, however, in the 1954/55 estimates to cover a scheme for these classes of handicapped persons.

All matters relating to the discharge of the welfare functions of the Council under the National Assistance Acts stand referred to the Health Committee, who appointed a Welfare Services Sub-Committee (*see page 15*). These functions are discharged under the general administration of the Medical Officer of Health, who is also designated Welfare Administrator. A Welfare Officer and two Assistant Welfare Officers are on the staff of the Health Department. The assistants are mainly concerned with blind welfare.

Blind Persons. At the end of 1953 the number of blind persons registered in Northampton County Borough was 239, classified as follows:—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Under school age	2	—	2
At schools for the blind	—	2	2
In homes for the blind	5	1	6
In other accommodation	1	4	5
In mental hospitals	3	2	5
In other hospitals	2	5	7
In mental deficiency institutions	1	3	4
Mental defectives at home	1	—	1
Employed in open industry	17	2	19
Employed in sheltered industry	21	8	29
Training for sheltered employment ..	1	—	1
Not available for employment	54	104	158
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	108	131	239
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

10 of the above were trained at St. Dunstan's and 42 were registered under the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944.

25 persons were newly registered as blind during 1953.

A weekly handicraft class was commenced on 23rd April, 1953, for the blind and partially sighted. This is held on Thursday afternoons at the Central Methodist Community Centre, Regent Square. 29 classes

were held at which there were 1,032 attendances (average attendance, 36). An outing to Bedford was arranged on 24th September, 1953, for persons attending the class and a New Year party was enjoyed on 7th January, 1954.

Partially Sighted Persons. In the approved scheme under the National Assistance Act, 1948, provision was made for the promotion of the welfare of partially sighted persons. Admission to the register is dependent upon a certificate from an ophthalmic surgeon. A start was made towards the latter part of 1951 in compiling a register and it contained the names of 13 persons on 31st December, 1953, made up as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Class A—Persons near and prospectively blind (aged 16 years and over)	4	3	7
Class B—Persons mainly industrially handicapped (16 years and over) ..	—	2	2
Class C—Persons requiring observation only (16 years and over)	1	3	4
Class D—Children aged 5 and under 16 years	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Totals	5	8	13
	—	—	—

Four of the above persons were newly registered as partially sighted during 1953.

Three partially sighted persons were certified as blind during the year and another was de-certified due to improved visual acuity.

Incidence of Blindness. (Tables 26 and 27, page 91). In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 2/53, dated 22nd January, 1953, and Circular 1/54, dated 12th January, 1954, Table 26 is inserted giving information as to the incidence of blindness with particular reference to cataract and glaucoma among old people.

There were no cases of retrolental fibroplasia among premature infants.

No notifications of ophthalmia neonatorum were received in 1953. As a matter of interest, only one case has been reported during the last six years.

Table 27 shews the number of blind and partially sighted persons registered in Northampton County Borough on various dates since blind welfare was undertaken by the Local Authority under the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Epileptics and Spastics. The list of handicapped pupils on page 108 includes 4 epileptics (3 boys, 1 girl) and 9 scholars (7 boys, 2 girls) suffering from cerebral palsy.

Apart from two women in epileptic colonies, no other cases are known to the Welfare Sub-Department. However, when schemes for handicapped persons other than the blind are in operation in this County Borough, no doubt further cases will come to light.

A Spastic Unit was opened on 5th January, 1954 (*see* page 105).

Residential Accommodation

(1) *Controlled by the Local Authority*

(a) **ST. EDMUND'S HOSPITAL.** St. Edmund's Hospital, a former public assistance "mixed" institution and since the "appointed day" (5th July, 1948) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, a joint user establishment, is the only Part III. Accommodation controlled by Northampton County Borough Council. The larger users of the premises are the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, in whom the property is vested.

Accommodation is provided there for 61 men, 36 women, and 13 children—a total of 110.

87 persons (49 men, 35 women, 2 boys, and 1 girl) were in residence there on 1st January, 1954. Of these, 2 men, the responsibility of the Local Authority, were accommodated in the hospital section owing to the lack of suitable ground floor rooms.

The standard charge is £3 13s. 6d. per week.

As there is no "family unit" accommodation, St. Edmund's Hospital is used for this purpose, which means that the old poor law procedure of separating man and wife, parents and children, is still necessary.

Residents are encouraged to work in the hospital and provision is made for them to receive a monetary recompense not exceeding 10s. 6d. per week for performing this work.

A chiropody service is available free of charge for residents in Part III. Accommodation.

Much pleasure was derived from the visits twice a week of the Occupational Therapist from the Health Department, until she resigned in October.

By the end of 1953, work had commenced on the alteration and decoration of all dayrooms.

(b) **HOSTEL AT KINGS HEATH.** Reference has been made in the last three annual reports to the erection on the Kings Heath estate of residential accommodation on hostel lines for 32 aged persons of either sex.

Building was begun in 1953 and it is hoped that completion will be reached towards the end of 1954.

(2) *Not controlled by the Local Authority*

(a) NAZARETH HOUSE. This establishment is situated within Northampton County Borough.

Arrangements are in operation under Section 26 (1) of the National Assistance Act, 1948, whereby twelve beds at Nazareth House are available for residential accommodation of persons in need of care and attention. The County Borough Council pay an agreed sum per head per week, less payments made by the residents.

Five men and six women were in residence under this scheme on 1st January, 1954.

(b) OLD PERSONS' HOMES OUTSIDE NORTHAMPTON. This accommodation is mostly for the convenience of the persons concerned.

On 1st January, 1954, the Council had undertaken financial responsibility for residents in the following homes :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Brackley House, Brackley	—	1	1
British Legion Crosfield House, Bwlch	1	—	1
British Legion Halsey House, Cromer	1	—	1
Christadelphian Rest Home, Southport	1	—	1
“Rossmore,” Leamington Spa	—	1	1
St. Mary's Hospital, Kettering	1	—	1
Salvation Army Home, Wicksted Hall, Whitchurch	1	—	1
“Singholm,” Walton-on-Naze	1	—	1

(c) SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION. On 1st January, 1954, the Council had accepted responsibility for blind persons or epileptics in the following homes :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
“Wardington Court” Home for the Blind, Northampton	1	—	1
“Darsdale” Home for the Blind, Raunds	—	1	1
Chalfont Colony for Epileptics	—	1	1
David Lewis Manchester Epileptic Colony	—	1	1

(d) HOMES FOR DISABLED AND OLD PERSONS. For convenience and reference a list is given below of residential accommodation in Northampton County Borough for old and handicapped persons :—

HOME	ACCOMMODATION
Nazareth House, Kingsthorpe Road	28 disabled and old persons (9 men, 19 women)
Oakwood Home, 8 The Drive	11 old persons, either sex
“ Roseland,” 41 Park Avenue South	8 old persons, either sex
St. Christopher’s, Abington Park Crescent	21 old persons, either sex
St. George’s Homestead, 25/26 St. George’s Avenue	21 aged women
“ The Briers,” 69 Collingwood Road	9 old persons, either sex
“ Wardington Court ” Home for the Blind, Welford Road	20 disabled and old persons, either sex

These seven homes, with accommodation for 118 persons, are all registered under Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

Two other homes are exempt from registration, *viz* : Bethany Homestead and the Methodist Homestead. There is residential accommodation at these two homesteads for 65 to 75 persons.

Accommodation is available, therefore, in the above homes for 183 to 193 disabled and old persons.

If the accommodation at St. Edmund’s Hospital (*see* page 67) is taken into account, it gives a grand total of 293 to 303 places.

(3) *Adaptation of Small Homes*

During the last five years, 22 properties have been inspected with a view to their adaptation and use for residential accommodation.

The County Borough Council made a Compulsory Purchase Order on 26th January, 1954, in respect of “ Barnfield,” 127 Harlestone Road, Northampton, which has been submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation.

General experience has demonstrated the scarcity in Northampton of property suitable for adaptation as old persons’ homes, mainly owing to the smallness of the buildings and excessive cost of alteration.

There is no property owned at present by the Council which is suitable for the purpose of an old persons’ home.

Meals for Aged Persons. The “ meals on wheels ” service has been running since September, 1950. The Women’s Voluntary Services, on behalf of the Local Authority, deliver the meals on two days a week—Tuesdays and Thursdays. Different areas are served on the two days, enabling more old people to participate. The recipients paid ninepence

per meal until 31st March, 1953, and the Local Authority subsidised to the extent of ninepence per meal, but since that date the subsidy has been raised to elevenpence per meal because of the increased cost of the meals.

During 1953 the number of meals served on 96 days was 2,771 (weekly average, 58). The cost to the Local Authority was £120 17s. 5d.

Persons in Need of Care and Attention. In order to avoid delay which would be likely to occur in dealing with urgent cases under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, the powers and duties of the Council in this respect have been delegated to the Welfare Services Sub-Committee of the Health Committee. (Council minute 6-12-48).

Further, the Medical Officer of Health has been authorised to make application to a court of summary jurisdiction or to a single justice of the peace and to take all necessary steps in accordance with the expedited procedure under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. (Council minute 4-3-52).

One new case was dealt with in 1953.

Burial of the Dead. During 1953, it was necessary for the Local Authority to arrange burials in accordance with Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, on two occasions.

Temporary Protection of Property. A store at the rear of 87 Newland has been provided to meet the obligations of the Local Authority under Section 48 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to take reasonable steps to prevent or mitigate loss or damage to movable property of persons admitted to hospital, etc.

These premises are also utilised for the storage of bedsteads, bedding, etc., in connection with temporary accommodation reserved at certain buildings in the County Borough to meet exceptional circumstances, such as flooding, or to provide shelter for other persons in urgent need in circumstances which cannot reasonably be foreseen.

Moral Welfare. The Welfare Officer investigated the circumstances of twenty cases during 1953. Eight of these girls were approved for admission to homes, the Council contributing some part of the cost of their maintenance for a period not exceeding twelve weeks, *i.e.*, approximately four weeks before confinement, two weeks lying-in period, and six weeks afterwards.

XI.—STATISTICAL TABLES

TABLE 1. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1944–1953.
BIRTH-RATES IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNIUM.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
England and Wales	17·6	16·1	19·1	20·5	17·9	16·7	15·8	15·5	15·3	15·5
Northampton	20·7	18·1	20·5	21·9	17·5	15·8	14·2	14·6	14·1	14·5

TABLE 2. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1944–1953.
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
England and Wales	7·3	9·3	6·6	5·3	5·4	5·1	5·1	4·8	4·6	4·6
Northampton	9·4	10·6	7·1	5·3	6·0	5·4	5·7	5·8	5·5	5·6

TABLE 3. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1944–1953.
DEATH-RATES IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNIUM.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
England and Wales	11·6	11·4	11·5	12·0	10·8	11·7	11·6	12·5	11·3	11·4
Northampton	12·2	12·9	12·0	12·3	11·5	12·1	12·0	13·6	11·8	12·9

TABLE 4. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953. METEOROLOGICAL DATA.

MONTH	RAINFALL			TEMPERATURE					DIRECTION OF WIND					BRIGHT SUNSHINE*	
	Total inches	Greatest in 24 hours		Days on which 0.01 in. or more fell	Mean	Maximum		Minimum	No. of Nights at or below 32 deg. F.	SW. Quadrant including W. Days	SE. Quadrant including S. Days	NE. Quadrant including E. Days	NW. Quadrant including N. Days	Hours	Mins.
		Depth	Date			Deg.	Date								
January	1.17	0.35	30	12	38.4	54.5	29	25.0 { 4 18	12	11	—	1	19		
February	1.80	0.47	10	13	39.8	56.0	21	22.0 14	11	11	1	3	13		
March	1.04	0.70	29	8	42.1	65.0	25	27.0 2	13	7	6	12	6		
April	2.03	0.25	29	17	46.9	67.0	22	34.0 9	—	9	2	11	8		
May	1.35	0.55	18	14	56.1	84.0	24 { 25 26	36.0 10 1 3	—	9	4	9	9		
June	1.96	0.38	21	17	57.8	79.0	26	42.0	—	8	1	9	12		
July	2.61	0.32	27	17	61.1	81.0	5	41.0 24	—	18	1	6	6		
August	2.56	1.09	23	11	63.0	86.5	12	44.0 24	—	12	4	1	14		
September	1.41	0.22	21	15	57.8	76.0	1	42.0 27	—	15	5	2	8		
October	2.21	0.60	12	12	50.2	71.5	1	36.0 28	—	10	5	10	6		
November	1.28	0.60	1	12	47.3	57.0	7	35.0 5	—	20	4	1	5		
December	0.77	0.12	14	17	45.3	59.5	3	30.0 31	2	13	9	2	7		
Year 1953	20.19	1.09	Aug. 23	165	50.5	86.5	Aug. 12	22.0 14 Feb.	38	143	42	67	113		

TABLE 5. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.
SUMMARY OF ROUTINE WORK OF THE SANITARY INSPECTORS.

NATURE OF VISIT, INSPECTION, ETC.	Number of Visits, etc.
<i>General Sanitation</i>	
Water supply	157
Drainage	648
Stables and piggeries	22
Offensive trades	25
Common lodging houses	65
Houses let in lodgings	30
Tents, vans, sheds, etc.	14
Factories	369
Workplaces	67
Outworkers	619
Bakehouses	75
Public conveniences	55
Cinemas, theatres, etc.	6
Accumulations of refuse, etc.	34
Rodent control	2091
Smoke observations	92
Schools	13
Shops	77
Swimming baths	2
Canal boats	71
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	1347
<i>Housing</i>	
Under Public Health Acts :—	
Houses inspected	700
Visits and revisits	2572
Under Housing Acts :—	
Houses inspected	93
Visits and revisits	184
Overcrowding :—	
Houses inspected	100
Visits and revisits	202
New cases of overcrowding discovered	34
Miscellaneous housing visits	62
<i>Disinfestation</i>	
Verminous houses treated	69
Visits and revisits to above houses	181
Anti-fly treatment of shops and other premises	73
Visits and revisits to above premises	101
<i>Notifiable Diseases</i>	
Inquiries into cases	204
Visits <i>re</i> disinfection	79
Miscellaneous visits	68

Continued on next page.

TABLE 5—continued.

NATURE OF VISIT, INSPECTION, ETC.	Number of Visits, etc.
<i>Meat and Food Inspection</i>	
Inspection of meat :—	
Visits to slaughterhouses	2177
Visits to shops and stalls	20
Visits to other premises	29
Visits to :—	
Butchers	168
Fishmongers and poulterers	85
Fried fish shops	19
Grocers	244
Greengrocers and fruiterers	18
Dairies and milkshops	156
Ice cream premises	321
Food preparing premises	90
Licensed premises	48
Market stalls	245
Restaurants	112
Street vendors and hawkers	6
Miscellaneous food visits	194
Seizure certificates issued	1
Surrender notes issued	3092
<i>Samples Taken</i>	
Food and drugs	316
Pasteurised milk for phosphatase test	502
Milk for methylene blue test	513
Sterilised milk for turbidity test	51
Milk for tubercle bacilli	2
Ice cream	74
Other food for bacteriological examination	80
Fertilisers and feeding stuffs	6
Swimming bath water	2
Water from Town mains	95
Water from wells	14
<i>Notices Served</i>	
Informal notices :—	
Served	312
Complied with	247
Outstanding at end of year	35
Statutory notices :—	
Served	115
Complied with	112
Outstanding at end of year	40
<i>Summary</i>	
Total number of inspections and visits	14566

TABLE 6. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.
RECONSTRUCTION OF DRAINS.

SITUATION OF PREMISES	NO. OF HOUSES
Cowper Street, 42	1
Marefair, 61	1
Total	2

TABLE 7. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953. HOUSES REPRESENTED DURING 1953.

SUBSEQUENT ACTION AND CONDITION AT THE END OF 1953.

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Augustine Street, 21 Barrack Road (Hope's Place), 47	9-9-53 28-1-53	D. 4-11-53 *	Vacant Vacant
Bath Gardens, 1	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Demolished
Bath Gardens, 2	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Demolished
Bath Gardens, 3	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Demolished
Bath Gardens, 4	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Demolished
Bath Row, 18	25-2-53	D. 6-5-53	Demolished
Bath Row, 20	25-2-53	D. 6-5-53	Demolished
Campbell Street, 19	9-12-53	—	Occupied
Campbell Street, 23	9-12-53	—	Occupied
Chalk Lane, 4	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Vacant
Compton Street, 26	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Vacant
Compton Street, 28	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Occupied
Compton Street, 30	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Occupied
Compton Street, 32	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Occupied
Compton Street, 34	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Occupied
Compton Street, 36	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Occupied
Compton Street, 42	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Occupied
Compton Street, 44	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Occupied
Compton Street, 46	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Occupied
Compton Street, 48	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Occupied
Crispin Street, 19	9-12-53	—	Occupied
Crispin Street, 19A	9-12-53	—	Occupied
Derngate, "Becket House," Flat 2	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Vacant (S.12, H.A., 1936)
Francis Street, 5	25-2-53	*	Vacant
Francis Street, 11	7-10-53	C. 9-12-53	Vacant
Gas Street, 7	28-1-53	*	Vacant
Gas Street, 9	28-1-53	*	Vacant
Green Street, 67	9-12-53	—	Vacant

C.=Closing Order ; D.=Demolition Order

* Undertaking given by owner not to use premises again for human habitation

Continued on next page.

TABLE 7—continued.

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Main Road (Far Cotton), 17	8-7-53	D. 9-9-53	Vacant
Mount Gardens, 21	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Vacant
New Town Road, 1	25-2-53	D. 6-5-53	Demolished
Regent Street, 37	8-7-53	C. 9-9-53	Occupied
St. James' Road, 77	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Vacant
St. James' Road, 79	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Occupied
St. James' Road, 81	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Occupied
St. James' Road, 83	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Vacant
St. James' Road, 85	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Vacant
St. James' Road, 87	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Vacant
St. James' Road, 89	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Occupied
St. James' Road, 91	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Occupied
St. James' Road, 93	9-9-53	D. 4-11-53	Vacant
St. James' Square (St. James'), 5	28-1-53	D. 1-4-53	Vacant
St. James' Square (St. James'), 6	28-1-53	D. 1-4-53	Occupied
St. John's Terrace, 9	1-4-53	*	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 14	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 16	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Occupied
Scarletwell Street, 17	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 18	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 19	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 21	1-4-53	D. 6-5-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 22	7-10-53	D. 9-12-53	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 36	7-10-53	D. 9-12-53	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 38	7-10-53	D. 9-12-53	Vacant and derelict
Scarletwell Street, 42	25-2-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 44	25-2-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 46	25-2-53	D. 3-6-53	Occupied
Scarletwell Street, 48	25-2-53	D. 3-6-53	Occupied
Scarletwell Street, 50	25-2-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 52	25-2-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 54	25-2-53	D. 6-5-53	Occupied
Swan Street, 70	7-10-53	C. 9-12-53	Vacant and derelict
Upper Cross Street, 2	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant
Upper Cross Street, 4	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant
Upper Cross Street, 6	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Occupied
Upper Cross Street, 8	1-4-53	D. 3-6-53	Vacant
Upper Harding Street, 35	25-2-53	*	Vacant
Upper Harding Street, 37	25-2-53	*	Vacant
Upper Harding Street, 39	25-2-53	*	Vacant
Upper Harding Street, 41	25-2-53	*	Vacant
Upper Harding Street, 43	25-2-53	*	Occupied
Whitford Terrace, 1	28-1-53	D. 1-4-53	Demolished
Whitford Terrace, 3	28-1-53	D. 1-4-53	Demolished
Whitford Terrace, 4	28-1-53	D. 1-4-53	Demolished
Whitford Terrace, 5	28-1-53	D. 1-4-53	Demolished

C.=Closing Order ; D.=Demolition Order

* Undertaking given by owner not to use premises again for human habitation

TABLE 8. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1948-1953.

HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953. HOUSES REPRESENTED PRIOR TO 1953.

SUBSEQUENT ACTION AND CONDITION AT THE END OF 1953.

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Bath Square, 2	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Square, 3	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Square, 4	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Square, 5	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Square, 6	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Square, 7	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Square, 8	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Square, 9	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Square, 10	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Square, 11	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Square, 12	9-4-52	D. 23-6-52	Demolished
Bath Street, 20	2-11-49	*	Demolished
Bull Head Lane, 27	3-3-48	C. 7-10-53	Vacant
Carlton Place, 3	1-2-50	*	Vacant
Carlton Place, 5	1-2-50	*	Vacant
Carlton Place, 7	4-1-50	*	Vacant
Carlton Place, 9	4-1-50	*	Vacant
Carlton Place, 11	1-2-50	*	Vacant
Carlton Place, 13	1-2-50	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 3	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 5	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 7	7-3-51	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 9	7-3-51	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 11	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 13	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 15	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 17	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 19	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 21	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 23	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 25	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 27	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 29	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 31	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 33	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 35	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 37	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 39	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 41	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 43	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 45	2-7-52	*	Vacant

C.=Closing Order ; D.=Demolition Order

* Undertaking given by owner not to use premises again for human habitation

Continued on next page.

TABLE 8—continued.

HOUSES	DATE OF		REMARKS
	Representations	Orders	
Compton Street, 47	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 49	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 51	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 53	2-7-52	*	Vacant
Compton Street, 55	2-7-52	*	Occupied
Compton Street, 57	4-7-51	D. 4-2-52	Vacant
Compton Street, 59	8-11-50	*	Vacant
Francis Street, 2	10-11-48	D. 31-1-49	Demolished
Francis Street, 4	1-12-48	D. 7-3-49	Demolished
Francis Street, 6	1-2-50	*	Demolished
Francis Street, 8	5-1-49	D. 5-4-49	Demolished
Francis Street, 10	2-2-49	D. 25-4-49	Demolished
Francis Street, 12	30-11-49	—	Demolished
Francis Street, 14	2-7-52	D. 17-9-52	Demolished
Francis Street, 16	2-7-52	D. 17-9-52	Demolished
Francis Street, 18	2-7-52	D. 17-9-52	Demolished
Francis Street, 33	3-12-52	*	Vacant
Gas Street, 12	3-12-52	*	Vacant
Kingswell Street, 52	11-6-52	*	Vacant
Monks Pond Street, 16	1-2-50	*	Occupied
Regent Street, 58	3-3-48	C. 7-10-53	Vacant and derelict
St. James' Square (St. James' Road), 3	4-1-50	*	Vacant and derelict
St. James' Square (St. James' Road), 4	4-1-50	*	Vacant and derelict
St. John's Terrace, 11	5-12-51	*	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 20	2-6-48	D. 26-7-48	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 24	3-3-48	D. 3-5-48	Vacant
Scarletwell Street, 40	2-6-48	D. 26-7-48	Vacant and derelict
Swan Street, 59	6-2-52	D. 5-5-52	Demolished
Swan Street, 61	6-2-52	D. 5-5-52	Demolished
Swan Street, 63	6-6-51	D. 4-2-52	Demolished
Swan Street, 65	6-2-52	D. 5-5-52	Demolished
Swan Street, 66	2-11-49	D. 30-1-50	Vacant
Swan Street, 67	4-7-51	D. 4-2-52	Demolished
Swan Street, 68	2-11-49	D. 30-1-50	Vacant
Swan Street, 69	4-7-51	D. 4-2-52	Demolished
Swan Street, 71	6-6-51	D. 4-2-52	Demolished
Upper Harding Street, 21	9-4-52	*	Demolished
Upper Harding Street, 23	9-4-52	*	Demolished
Upper Harding Street, 25	9-4-52	*	Demolished
Upper Harding Street, 27	9-4-52	*	Demolished
Upper Harding Street, 29	9-4-52	*	Demolished
Upper Harding Street, 31	9-4-52	*	Demolished
Upper Harding Street, 33	3-9-52	*	Vacant
Wellington Street, 28	1-2-50	D. 3-7-50	Vacant
Wellington Street, 30	1-2-50	D. 3-7-50	Vacant
Wellington Street, 34	1-2-50	D. 3-7-50	Vacant

C.=Closing Order ; D.=Demolition Order

* Undertaking given by owner not to use premises again for human habitation

TABLE 9. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1.—*Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors for purposes of provisions as to health.*

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	87	51	1	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	621	285	9	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises, but including electrical stations, institutions, and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction)	21	33	3	—
TOTALS	729	369	13	—

2.—*Cases in which defects were found.*

Particulars	Number of defects				Cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	12	11	—	5	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	16	14	—	12	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	29	26	—	17	—

Continued on next page.

TABLE 9—*continued.*3.—*Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).*

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list	Cases of default in sending lists	Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Making, etc., of wearing apparel	161	—	—	—	—	—
Other	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	161	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 10. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

UN SOUND FOOD VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED.

NATURE OF FOOD	WEIGHT			
	TONS	CWT.	QR.	LB.
Beef, home killed	16	15	0	12
Beef, imported	—	2	3	24
Mutton, home killed	3	6	1	15
Mutton, imported	—	—	—	8
Offal, home killed	52	17	2	1
Pork, home killed	7	16	3	14
Pork, imported	—	—	—	20
Veal, home killed	—	9	1	21
Bacon	—	1	3	26
Cheese	—	4	1	19
Confectionery	—	3	1	13
Fats, edible	—	—	—	23
Fish, wet	1	12	0	4
Flour and cereals	—	12	2	0
Fruit	—	8	1	21
Fruit, dried	—	1	3	6
Ham, cooked	—	15	3	27
Poultry and game	—	3	1	13
Prepared meat products	—	8	3	21
Shell-fish	—	4	1	1
Sugar	—	1	0	0
Vegetables	—	15	2	8
Total	87	2	1	17

Also :—13,081 tins and jars of food.

3,092 surrender notes were issued in connection with the above unsound food.

There was one seizure (*see* page 40).

TABLE 11. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	CATTLE, EX- CLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS	TOTALS
Number killed	6,514	2,154	4,622	23,720	12,317	49,327
Number inspected	6,514	2,154	4,622	23,720	12,315	49,325
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis :—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	2	10	27	139	43	221
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	1,669	735	60	1,778	3,059	7,301
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	25·7	34·6	1·9	8·1	25·2	15·2
<i>Tuberculosis only :—</i> Whole carcasses con- demned	8	13	0	0	9	30
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	622	486	0	0	521	1,629
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	9·7	23·2	0·0	0·0	4·3	3·4

TABLE 12. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

FOOD AND DRUGS. SAMPLES TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS.

NATURE OF SAMPLE	FORMAL SAMPLES		INFORMAL SAMPLES	
	TOTAL NUMBER	NO. NOT GENUINE	TOTAL NUMBER	NO. NOT GENUINE
Apples	1	—	—	—
Beer	1	—	—	—
Butter	3	—	—	—
Butterscotch	1	—	2	1
Cake, etc., mixtures	2	—	8	—
Celery and cheese spread..	1	1	—	—
Cheese	1	—	1	—
Coffee	1	—	3	—
Confectionery	3	1	3	—
Fish pastes, etc.	3	—	13	—
Flavours, essences, etc. ..	2	—	4	—
Flour, cereals, etc.	5	—	2	—
Gelatine	1	—	—	—
Ice cream	3	—	—	—
Jam, preserves, etc.	6	1	9	1
Jelly	2	—	3	—
Margarine	2	—	—	—
Milk	150	34	—	—
Mincemeat	1	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	1	—	7	1
Prepared meat products ..	10	1	5	—
Sauces, spices, condiments	8	—	14	—
Sausages	1	—	2	—
Soft drinks	5	—	4	—
Soup	1	—	2	—
Sundry drugs and medicines	1	—	2	—
Tea	2	—	3	—
Wines and spirits	10	1	1	—
Totals	228*	39	88*	3

* A total of 316 samples, 42 of which (13·3 per cent.) were found to be not genuine

TABLE 13. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1944-1953.

TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS DEATH-RATES IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNium.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
England and Wales	0·62	0·62	0·54	0·55	0·51	0·45	0·36	0·31	0·24	0·20
Northampton	0·65	0·72	0·55	0·51	0·41	0·36	0·36	0·35	0·29	0·24

TABLE 14. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1931-1953.

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS.

YEARS	NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
	RESPIR- ATORY	NON-RES- PIRATORY	TOTALS	RESPIR- ATORY	NON-RES- PIRATORY	TOTALS
1931	115	29	144	70	14	84
1932	101	31	132	61	13	74
1933	106	29	135	63	12	75
1934	91	25	116	54	13	67
1935	69	22	91	52	11	63
1936	86	11	97	54	8	62
1937	104	23	127	60	10	70
1938	76	27	103	69	12	81
1939	72	21	93	38	6	44
1940	89	32	121	57	11	68
1941	120	26	146	75	8	83
1942	82	28	110	49	11	60
1943	95	26	121	55	9	64
1944	132	22	154	52	13	65
1945	106	18	124	61	10	71
1946	121	26	147	49	7	56
1947	100	20	120	42	11	53
1948	98	7	105	42	1	43
1949	99	17	116	36	2	38
1950	76	18	94	28	10	38
1951	92	18	110	31	5	36
1952	103	16	119	26	4	30
1953	69	14	83	21	4	25

TABLE 15. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

CLINICAL BACTERIOLOGY. SUMMARY OF REPORTS.

DIPHTHERIA— Throat and Nose Secretions				TYPHOID, DYSENTERY, ETC.— Fæces, etc.				OTHER CONDITIONS				TOTALS			
Suspected Cases	Reports received			Suspected Cases	Reports received			Suspected Cases	Reports received			Suspected Cases	Reports received		
	Positive	Negative	Total		Positive	Negative	Total		Positive	Negative	Total		Positive	Negative	Total
73	—	85	85	46	3	47	50	5	2	4	6	124	5	136	141

TABLE 16. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

TUBERCULOSIS. CLASSIFICATION OF NEW CASES.

CLASSIFICATION	NOTIFIED CASES			DEATHS OF CASES NOT NOTIFIED		
	M.	F.	TOTAL	M.	F.	TOTAL
RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS	39	30	69*	5	1	6*
OTHER FORMS :—						
Meninges and Brain	2	2	4	—	1	1
Peritoneum and Intestines . .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bones and Joints	3	1	4	—	—	—
Cervical Glands	1	1	2	—	—	—
Other Organs	1	3	4	—	—	—
Totals	46	37	83	5	2	7

* A total of 75 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis

TABLE 17. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS. OCCUPATIONAL INCIDENCE.

OCCUPATION	NEW CASES	OCCUPATION	NEW CASES
Shoe Operatives :—			
(a) Clicker	—	Packer	1
(b) Laster	—	Presser (dry cleaning)	1
(c) Finisher	1	Salesman	1
(d) Roughstuff and Pressman	—	School Child	9
(e) Warehouse and General	5	School Teacher	2
(f) Female Worker	3	Shop Assistant	1
	9	Sister Tutor	1
		Stoker	1
		Student	1
Chargehand (engineering)	1	Tile Slabber	1
Clerk	5		
Commercial Traveller ..	2	Waitress	1
		Wardmaid	1
Dressmaker	2	No Occupation	13
Furniture Fitter	1	Not Ascertained	4
Hairdresser	1		
Horse Driver	1		
Housekeeper	1		
Housewife	9		
Labourer	3		
Lorry Driver	2	Total	75

TABLE 18. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

TUBERCULOSIS. AGE GROUPS FOR NEW CASES AND DEATHS.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1—5 years	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10 years	—	1	1	2	}	—	1	—
10—15 years	3	2	—	—		—	—	—
15—20 years	2	6	1	—		—	1	—
20—25 years	4	4	—	3	}	—	—	—
25—35 years	3	6	—	1		2	4	—
35—45 years	9	5	2	—		—	—	—
45—55 years	9	—	2	—	}	10	1	—
55—65 years	6	4	—	—		—	—	—
65 and upwards..	8	2	—	1		3	2	—
Totals	44	31	7	8	15	6	3	1

TABLE 19. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1944–1953.

INFANT MORTALITY IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNium.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
England and Wales	45·4	46·0	42·9	41·4	33·9	32·4	29·8	29·6	27·6	26·8
Northampton	46·3	40·3	45·9	33·3	37·3	29·8	18·6	29·7	21·8	23·2

TABLE 20. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1949-1953.

INFANT MORTALITY. CAUSES OF DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Bronchitis	4	—	1	1	—
Congenital Malformations	10	6	11	4	6
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhœa	5	—	1	1	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	5	5	5	5	1
Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	1
*Violence	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	—	—
All Other Causes, including Premature Birth	24	17	25	21	26
TOTAL DEATHS	49	28	45	32	35
TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS	1646	1502	1514	1467	1506
INFANT MORTALITY	29·8	18·6	29·7	21·8	23·2

* Neither of these violent deaths was caused by a motor vehicle accident

TABLE 21. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

LIVE BIRTHS AND STILLBIRTHS REGISTERED AND NOTIFIED.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
Live Births Registered	776	730	1506
Stillbirths Registered	14	16	30
*Total Births Registered	790	746	1536
Live Births Notified	1337	1260	2597
Stillbirths Notified	42	37	79
*Total Births Notified	1379	1297	2676

* 1,148 (74·7 per cent.) of the total *registered* births and 2,309 (86·3 per cent.) of the total *notified* births occurred in institutions

TABLE 22. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS. SOURCES OF NOTIFICATION.

	NUMBER	PER CENT.
Medical Practitioners	4	0·2
Certified Midwives	2666	99·6
Parents and Others	6	0·2
Totals	2676	100·0

TABLE 23. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES. STATISTICS.

CENTRE	DAY OF MEETING	AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER WEEK				Average Number seen by Doctor per Session
		Mothers	Children under 1 year	Children 1—2 years	Children 2—5 years	
Abington Avenue	Thursday ..	68	50	17	19	22
Broadmead	Monday	35	22	10	9	17
Dallington	Thursday ..	59	44	14	12	15
*Doddridge	Thursday ..	68	43	20	20	19
Far Cotton	Monday	42	28	11	11	18
Far Cotton	Wednesday..	30	21	7	6	13
Kingsley Park	Monday	44	27	11	12	18
Kingsthorpe	Tuesday	71	54	17	9	25
St. David's	Friday	38	23	11	7	12
*St. Edmund's	Friday	38	25	12	7	16
St. Giles' Street	Wednesday..	56	39	13	10	18
St. Sepulchre's	Wednesday..	54	40	11	6	18
St. Sepulchre's	Friday	54	35	14	6	18
*Victoria	Tuesday	41	27	11	8	17
Wheatfield Road	Friday	43	22	12	16	19
	Totals	741	500	191	158	265

* Held at St. Giles' Street Infant Welfare Centre

TABLE 24. ENGLAND AND WALES AND NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1944-1953.

MATERNAL MORTALITY* IN EACH YEAR OF THE DECENNium.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
England and Wales	1·93	1·79	1·43	1·17	1·02	0·98	0·86	0·79	0·72	0·76
Northampton	0·94	—	0·47	0·86	0·54	—	0·65	1·29	—	0·65

* Calculated per 1,000 total (live and still) births registered and including deaths from abortion

TABLE 25. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

SUMMARY OF DENTAL WORK.

	EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS	CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS	TOTALS
<i>Number provided with Dental Care :—</i>			
Examined	26	454	480
Needing treatment	26	404	430
Treated	21	363	384
Made dentally fit	12	296	308
Attendances	81	1086	1167
<i>Forms of Dental Treatment provided :—</i>			
Extractions	76	592	668
Anæsthetics :—			
Local	14	51	65
General	9	254	263
Fillings	21	7	28
Scalings or scaling and gum treatment	4	—	4
Silver nitrate treatment	2	1152	1154
Dressings	25	73	98
Radiographs	2	—	2
Dentures provided :—			
Complete	6	—	6
Partial	6	—	6
Dentures repaired	1	—	1

TABLE 26. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1953.

FOLLOW-UP OF REGISTERED BLIND AND PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSONS.

Number of cases registered during the year in respect of which paragraph 7 (c) of Forms B.D. 8 recommends :— (a) No treatment (b) Treatment (medical, surgical, or optical)	CAUSE OF DISABILITY			
	CATARACT	GLAUCOMA	RETROLENTAL FIBROPLASIA	OTHERS
	8	1	—	8
	7	3	—	2
Number of cases at (b) above which on follow-up action have received treatment	3	2	—	1

TABLE 27. NORTHAMPTON C.B., 1949–1953.

INCIDENCE OF BLINDNESS.

DATES	NUMBER OF NAMES ON REGISTERS	
	BLIND	PARTIALLY SIGHTED
31-3-49	198	—
31-3-50	203	—
31-3-51	224	—
31-3-52	222	7
31-12-52	232	14
31-12-53	239	13

TABLE A
COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
Vital Statistics during 1953 and Previous Years

Year	Total Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Live Births			Total Deaths registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Uncor-rected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	Non-resi-dents registered in the District	Resi-dents not regis-tered in the District	Under One Year		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Number	Rate
1921	92300	1924	1881	20.4	1022	11.1	123	65	124	65.9	964	10.4
1922	92950	1697	1646	17.7	1108	11.9	116	54	86	52.2	1046	11.3
1923	93230	1723	1662	17.8	1177	12.6	140	49	95	57.2	1086	11.6
1924	93800	1591	1534	16.4	1143	12.2	149	42	80	52.1	1036	11.1
1925	93970	1531	1471	15.6	1229	13.1	167	54	98	66.6	1116	11.9
1926	93740	1393	1309	14.0	1163	12.4	174	75	72	55.0	1064	11.4
1927	93260	1362	1281	13.7	1248	13.4	170	46	78	60.9	1124	12.0
1928	94270	1366	1308	13.9	1204	12.8	207	63	70	53.5	1060	11.3
1929	94180	1332	1249	13.3	1269	13.5	226	50	66	52.8	1093	11.6
1930	93460	1334	1224	13.1	1217	13.0	193	48	69	56.4	1072	11.5
1931	92970	1307	1233	13.3	1243	13.4	205	53	87	70.6	1091	11.8
1932	96730	1326	1244	13.0	1265	13.2	207	50	80	64.3	1108	11.6
1933	96630	1236	1152	11.9	1277	13.2	236	50	52	45.1	1091	11.3
1934	96550	1298	1180	12.2	1344	13.9	289	41	54	45.8	1096	11.4
1935	96700	1301	1155	11.9	1311	13.6	298	38	58	50.2	1051	10.9
1936	96300	1419	1204	12.5	1448	15.0	298	59	48	39.9	1209	12.6
1937	96360	1518	1197	12.4	1465	15.2	302	54	57	47.6	1217	12.6
1938	96540	1556	1203	12.5	1294	13.4	283	60	56	46.6	1071	11.1
1939	96440	1704	1190	12.3	1458	14.7	368	65	52	41.7	1155	11.6
1940	103700	1847	1229	11.9	1812	17.5	418	52	69	49.0	1446	13.9
1941	108930	2101	1282	11.8	1776	16.3	450	69	91	52.9	1395	12.8
1942	101800	2133	1597	15.7	1468	14.4	362	61	68	42.6	1167	11.5
1943	98150	2244	1761	17.9	1616	16.5	390	64	69	39.2	1290	13.1
1944	100040	2627	2074	20.7	1583	15.8	416	53	96	46.3	1220	12.2
1945	98520	2412	1788	18.1	1586	16.1	382	69	72	40.3	1273	12.9
1946	102760	2847	2111	20.5	1571	15.3	399	59	97	45.9	1231	12.0
1947	104480	3000	2283	21.9	1606	15.4	363	43	76	33.3	1286	12.3
1948	104380	2518	1825	17.5	1543	14.8	401	54	68	37.3	1196	11.5
1949	104300	2377	1646	15.8	1581	15.2	414	92	49	29.8	1259	12.1
1950	105490	2497	1502	14.2	1547	14.7	397	113	28	18.6	1263	12.0
1951	103700	2510	1514	14.6	1668	16.1	391	137	45	29.7	1414	13.6
1952	103700	2583	1467	14.1	1489	14.4	358	91	32	21.8	1222	11.8
1953	104000	2592	1506	14.5	1650	15.9	346	36	35	23.2	1340	12.9

This Table is arranged to shew the gross births and deaths in the district and the births and deaths properly belonging to it, with the corresponding rates.

The birth-rate and death-rate for 1932 are calculated on a mean population of 95,670 owing to the Borough extension on 1st April, 1932.

From 1921 to 1931 and also in 1939 the death-rates are based on the estimated civil populations supplied by the Registrar-General for that purpose. The population for death-rate calculation in 1939 was 99,290.

Non-civilian deaths are excluded during the years 1939 to 1949.

NOTE.—Tables B and C are inserted after Page 111.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH
EDUCATION COMMITTEE



ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

FOR THE YEAR 1953

BY

CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health
Principal School Medical Officer
Chief Tuberculosis Officer
Welfare Administrator

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TABLE OF CONTENTS—*see* page 7.

INTRODUCTION—*see* page 8.

LIST OF CLINICS—*see* page 22.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BOROUGH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(*as constituted on 31st December, 1953*)

The Worshipful the Mayor
(ALDERMAN W. A. PICKERING, J.P.)

Chairman :

ALDERMAN A. L. CHOWN

Deputy-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR E. F. TOMPKINS

Aldermen :

P. W. ADAMS

C. A. CHOWN

J. V. COLLIER

Councillors :

J. B. CORRIN

T. H. DOCKRELL, M.B., F.R.C.S.I.

SAUL DOFFMAN

MRS. K. M. GIBBS

S. T. KINCH

F. P. SAUNDERS

LEN SMITH

B. C. TIPPLESTON

F. TOLLIT

Co-opted Members :

MISS P. HENNINGS, M.B.E.

MR. C. H. EDWARDS

DR. E. E. FIELD, O.B.E., B.SC., F.R.G.S.

MR. E. HALL

MR. J. L. PIGGOTT

MRS. B. C. TIPPLESTON

Primary Education and Special Services Sub-Committee

COUNCILLOR DOCKRELL (*Chairman*) ; THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN PICKERING)
COUNCILLORS MRS. GIBBS and TOLLIT ; DR. FIELD, MR. HALL, MR. PIGGOTT,
and MRS. TIPPLESTON.

Chief Education Officer :

H. A. SKERRETT, B.A., A.R.HIST.S.

STAFF OF SCHOOL HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1953

Principal School Medical Officer CARRICK G. PAYTON, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Principal School Medical Officer RAYMOND J. DONALDSON, M.B., B.CH., D.P.H.

School Medical Officers .. ROBERT T. HICKS, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(Died 17/1/54)
MARGARET O'CONNOR, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.
(Full time from 1/9/53 ; previously part time)

Principal School Dental Officer J. P. WILSON, L.D.S.R.C.S.

Assistant Dental Officer .. MRS. M. CANOVAN, L.D.S. (Resigned 14/11/53)

*Educational Psychologist** .. MISS D. V. SCOTT, B.A.

*Psychiatric Social Worker** .. MISS E. E. BITCHENOR, B.A.

Speech Therapist .. MISS E. WESTLEY (Commenced 19/1/53)

Part-time Speech Therapist .. MRS. B. A. GROSE (Resigned 15/1/53)

School Nurses† MISS G. E. LANTSBERY (1, 2)
MRS. A. J. MAPLEY (1)
MISS D. M. BURTON (1, 2, 3)

Clerks MISS M. E. L. PHILLIPS (Senior Clerk)
MISS A. E. SCOTTS
MISS P. HOWKINS

Clerks and Chairside Assistants MISS J. W. SEAMARK
MRS. J. MARSHMAN

* Under a joint scheme with Northamptonshire Education Authority.

† Health Visitors (*see* page 16) also gave part-time assistance in school health service under a co-ordinated scheme.

(1) State Registered Nurse.

(2) State Certified Midwife.

(3) Health Visitor's Certificate.

GENERAL INFORMATION, 1953

Home Population at all Ages (estimated at 30th June, 1953) 104,000

Estimated Child Population (30th June, 1953) :—

Under 1 year	1,500
1—4 years inclusive	6,000
5—14 years inclusive	14,800
Total under 15 years	22,300

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Number on Rolls

Number of Schools	25
Number of Departments	36
Number on Rolls	10,454
Average Attendance	9,516 (91·0 per cent.)

SECONDARY MODERN SCHOOLS

Number of Schools	8
Number of Departments	9
Number on Rolls	2,755
Average Attendance	2,531 (91·9 per cent.)

GRAMMAR AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

Grammar School for Boys (Town and County)	729
Grammar School for Girls	471
Technical High School—Mixed	401

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

Wellington Place	67
Open Air	100
Manfield Orthopædic Hospital	49
John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home	11

NURSERY SCHOOLS

Silver Street	86
Bush Hill	40
Delapre	38
Gloucester	40
Victoria Park	38
Wallace Road	39

Total Number of Pupils on Rolls .. 15,318

COST OF SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Total Nett Cost (Year 1952/53)	£	s.	d.
.. .. .	11,576	10	8

MEDICAL INSPECTION RETURNS

Year ended 31st December, 1953.

TABLE I. (MINISTRY OF EDUCATION)

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)

A.—PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups

Entrants	2,178
Second Age Group	1,214
Third Age Group	1,152

Total 4,544

Number of other Periodic Inspections 421

Grand Total 4,965

Parents present at the above inspections numbered 3,626 (73·0 per cent.).

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS

Number of Special Inspections	1,700
Number of Re-inspections	3,338

Total 5,038

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL PUPILS FOUND AT PERIODIC MEDICAL
INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (excluding Dental Diseases and
Infestation with Vermin)

Group	For defective vision (excluding squint)	For any of the other conditions recorded in Table II.A	Total individual pupils
Entrants	7	594	600
Second Age Group	64	158	211
Third Age Group	55	79	129
Total (prescribed groups)	126	831	940
Other Periodic Inspections	9	48	55
Grand Totals	135	879	995

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION

Defect Code No.	Defect or Disease	PERIODIC INSPECTIONS		SPECIAL INSPECTIONS	
		No. of defects		No. of defects	
		Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not requiring treatment	Requiring treatment	Requiring to be kept under ob- servation, but not requiring treatment
4	Skin	48	27	40	2
5	Eyes— <i>a.</i> Vision	135	59	440	15
	<i>b.</i> Squint	54	20	123	3
	<i>c.</i> Other	37	9	21	1
	Ears— <i>a.</i> Hearing	17	44	14	13
	<i>b.</i> Otitis Media	29	16	16	2
	<i>c.</i> Other	8	4	47	2
7	Nose or Throat	308	176	69	17
8	Speech	20	15	28	5
9	Cervical Glands	52	141	10	2
10	Heart and Circulation	17	96	18	4
11	Lungs	84	210	27	9
12	Developmental—				
	<i>a.</i> Hernia	4	1	1	—
	<i>b.</i> Other	36	98	1	2
13	Orthopædic—				
	<i>a.</i> Posture	46	9	5	1
	<i>b.</i> Flat foot	80	9	4	—
	<i>c.</i> Other	109	41	27	2
14	Nervous system—				
	<i>a.</i> Epilepsy	2	—	1	—
	<i>b.</i> Other	25	38	7	17
15	Psychological—				
	<i>a.</i> Development	3	21	26	14
	<i>b.</i> Stability	12	60	16	11
16	Other	66	102	292	36

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS

Age Groups	Number of Pupils Inspected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Entrants	2,178	1,059	48·6	1,100	50·5	19	0·9
Second Age Group	1,214	633	52·1	580	47·8	1	0·1
Third Age Group	1,152	782	67·9	370	32·1	—	—
Other Periodic Inspections	421	180	42·8	241	57·2	—	—
Totals	4,965	2,654	53·5	2,291	46·1	20	0·4

TABLE III.
INFESTATION WITH VERMIN

(i) Total number of examinations in the schools by the school nurses or other authorised persons	32,965
(ii) Total number of <i>individual</i> pupils found to be infested..	571
(iii) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2), Education Act, 1944)	548
(iv) Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944)	—

School nurses made 310 surprise visits to schools for the purpose of inspecting children's hair. The percentage of uncleanliness found was 2·6, compared with 3·0 in 1952.

Printed instructions giving detailed methods of cleansing were issued to the parents of those children found to be infested. A D.D.T. preparation was supplied on request.

Facilities are available at the School Clinic for children's hair to be treated by a trained nurse. 66 children were dealt with during 1953, compared with 118 in 1952.

TABLE IV.

TREATMENT OF PUPILS ATTENDING MAINTAINED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS (INCLUDING SPECIAL SCHOOLS)

GROUP 1.—DISEASES OF THE SKIN (excluding Uncleanliness, for which *see* Table III.)

	Number of cases treated or under treatment during the year	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Ringworm—(i) Scalp	1	2
(ii) Body	26	1
Scabies	7	2
Impetigo	13	—
Other skin diseases	139	43
Totals	186	48

GROUP 2.—EYE DISEASES, DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT

	Number of cases dealt with	
	by the Authority	otherwise
External and other, excluding errors of refraction and squint	270	17
Errors of refraction (including squint)	—	825
Totals	270	842
Number of pupils for whom spectacles were		
(a) prescribed	—	567
(b) obtained	—	446

GROUP 3.—DISEASES AND DEFECTS OF EAR, NOSE AND THROAT

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Received operative treatment		
(a) for diseases of the ear	—	7
(b) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis	—	403
(c) for other nose and throat conditions ..	—	22
Received other forms of treatment	160	84
Totals	160	516

GROUP 4.—ORTHOPÆDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS

(a) Number treated as in-patients in hospitals..	78	
	by the Authority	otherwise
(b) Number treated otherwise, <i>e.g.</i> , in clinics or out-patient departments	81	585

GROUP 5.—CHILD GUIDANCE TREATMENT

	Number of cases treated	
	in the Authority's Child Guidance Clinics	elsewhere
Number of pupils treated at Child Guidance Clinics	179	—

GROUP 6.—SPEECH THERAPY

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
Number of pupils treated by Speech Therapists..	130	1

GROUP 7.—OTHER TREATMENT GIVEN

	Number of cases treated	
	by the Authority	otherwise
(a) Miscellaneous minor ailments	1,577	6
(b) Heart and circulation	13	26
(c) Lungs	20	56
(d) Developmental—		
Hernia	—	3
Other	—	12
(e) Nervous system—		
Epilepsy	—	5
Other	2	26
(f) Psychological—		
Development	—	—
Stability	1	4
(g) Other conditions	67	22
Totals	1,680	160

TABLE V.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT
(This Table is printed on page 109).

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The table below gives a comparison of the cases of notifiable disease amongst the general population and school children during 1953 :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED (ALL AGES)	CASES AMONGST SCHOOL CHILDREN
Acute Encephalitis (infective)	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis :—		
Paralytic	11	5
Non-paralytic	1	—
Erysipelas	28	1
Food Poisoning	14	4
Measles	391	130
Pneumonia	95	11
Scarlet Fever	181	135
Whooping Cough	379	151
Tuberculosis :—		
Respiratory	69	8
Other Forms	14	3

*Most cases of these diseases were not investigated. The figures marked with an asterisk relate to cases within the age-group five to fifteen years, whether investigated or not.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table shews the principal causes of death amongst children of school age (five to fifteen years) for the fifteen-year period ended December, 1953 :—

CAUSE	1939–1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Total Deaths	Percentage of Total
Violence	27	—	2	—	5	1	35	20·9
Tuberculosis	27	—	1	1	—	1	30	18·0
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, and Other Diseases of Respiratory System . .	8	1	—	—	1	2	12	7·2
Heart Disease	11	—	—	—	—	—	11	6·6
Diphtheria	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	3·0
Nephritis	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	3·0
Measles	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	0·6
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	0·6
Other Conditions	50	2	5	5	3	2	67	40·1
Totals	134	4	8	6	9	6	167*	100·0

* 0·9 per cent. of the 19,157 deaths at all ages during the fifteen years.

SCHOOL CLINIC ATTENDANCES

Schools	Children	Attendances		
		Treatment	Inspection	Totals
Maintained Primary and Secondary ..	3,994	8,948	2,423	11,371
Special	84	439	42	481
Nursery	300	549	282	831
Non-maintained	27	76	22	98
Pre-school	49	120	4	124
Totals	4,454	10,132	2,773	12,905

FOLLOWING-UP

Visits paid to primary, secondary, and special schools by doctors and nurses to follow up children found defective at medical inspection 157

Visits to homes :—

By doctors 19

By nurses 764

Re-examinations made by doctors 2,766

In addition, the school nurses during 268 visits to schools made 3,427 other examinations and carried out 694 treatments.

EAR NOSE AND THROAT CLINIC

410 children (400 primary and secondary, 3 special, and 7 nursery) were operated upon for tonsils and adenoids during 1953. The figure for 1952 was 705.

See Table IV., Group 3, on page 100.

A children's ear nose and throat clinic is held at Northampton General Hospital, to which cases are referred.

EYE CLINIC

The Ophthalmic Surgeon attended the School Clinic once or twice a week as required, by arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board. 754 children were examined. 666 were from primary and secondary schools, 26 from special, 9 from nursery, 11 from non-maintained schools, and 42 pre-school.

See Table IV., Group 2, on page 100.

An Orthoptic Clinic is held at Northampton General Hospital, to which cases are referred, when necessary, by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

CONJUNCTIVITIS

The 49 cases noted during 1953 are shewn below month by month :—

MONTH	NUMBER OF CASES
January	6
February	4
March	13
April	4
May	6
June	7
July	1
August	—
September	2
October	3
November	3
December	—
Total	49

This subject has been dealt with in the Annual Reports for 1948 onwards.

Although the annual number of cases has dropped from 923 to 49 since 1943, there still remains a small reservoir of conjunctivitis in the schools. This must be regarded as a potential danger calling for constant vigilance, especially as the factor which causes this reservoir of infection to flare up suddenly to epidemic proportions is not fully understood. The measures already taken, however, regarding the provision of paper towels and the supply of adequate hot water, should help to minimise the risks.

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC

This service is shared with Northamptonshire County Council. The Educational Psychologist sees children who shew any abnormality of behaviour and refers them to the Psychiatrist when necessary.

179 County Borough cases were referred ; 39 were examined by the Psychiatrist and 4 were awaiting examination.

SPEECH CLINIC

This Clinic is held at 28 Billing Road, Northampton. Staff changes are given on page 95.

130 children were dealt with under speech therapy arrangements during 1953 and at the end of the year 84 were still under treatment.

SUNLIGHT CLINIC

100 school children made 1,504 attendances in 1953 for ultra-violet light treatment at the School Clinic.

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT

78 Northampton children were under treatment at Manfield Orthopædic Hospital, or the John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home, during 1953.

581 local children were treated at the Orthopædic Clinic as out-patients.

Remedial exercises for flat feet, round shoulders, etc., were given at the School Clinic to 81 children.

SPASTIC UNIT

A Unit for twenty spastic children (day or residential) from town or county has been established at the John Greenwood Shipman Convalescent Home and was opened on 5th January, 1954. Three children suffering from spastic paralysis were transferred from the Open Air Recovery School as day pupils. They receive education and also physiotherapy or other treatment as considered necessary. Transport by bus or taxi is provided by the Education Committee.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

180 children were immunised and 898 received reinforcing doses at the School Clinic.

There is record that 12,395 children in the age-group 5 to 14 years inclusive had been immunised by 31st December, 1953. This is 83·7 per cent. of the estimated population of 14,800 in this age-group. The immunity index, *i.e.*, the proportion of children who have had a course of immunisation within the last five years, is 33·4.

SCABIES

The number of children from maintained schools treated under the Authority's scheme during 1953 was 13. In addition, 3 cases received treatment privately.

RINGWORM OF THE SCALP

There were 2 new cases of ringworm from maintained schools during 1953.

These 2 children attended Northampton General Hospital for radiotherapy, but the preliminary treatment and epilation for one were carried out at the School Clinic. One further case was reported as receiving treatment at the hospital.

Three visits to schools were made by a medical officer to examine contacts under a Wood's glass. 690 children were examined, but no case was found.

FREE MEALS

Number of children in receipt of free meals	139
Total number of free meals supplied	21,834
Number of centres where meals were prepared	19

WELLINGTON PLACE SPECIAL SCHOOL

This School is for educationally sub-normal children.

67 children were examined at routine medical inspections and the Deputy Principal School Medical Officer paid 15 visits and made 29 special inspections or re-inspections.

There were 29 special inspections or re-inspections at the School Clinic.

13 children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

13 visits were paid by school nurses, when 354 examinations were made.

These figures are included in the relative tables throughout this report.

OPEN AIR RECOVERY SCHOOL

24 visits were paid to this School by the School Medical Officers and 100 routine and 268 other examinations were carried out.

Special inspections and re-inspections at the School Clinic numbered 31.

13 children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

119 visits were made by school nurses for general supervision ; 694 treatments were given and 292 other examinations conducted.

The above statistics are included in the relative tables earlier in this report.

NURSERY SCHOOLS

There are six nursery schools :—

Silver Street
Bush Hill
Delapre
Gloucester
Victoria Park
Wallace Road

In addition, there is a Nursery Class attached to Bective Infants and Junior Mixed School.

428 routine examinations, 6 special examinations, and 255 re-examinations were done at schools.

49 special inspections or re-inspections were made at the School Clinic.

9 children were examined by the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

7 were operated upon for tonsils and adenoids.

In addition, the school nurses paid 66 visits for general supervision or cleanliness surveys and made 2,022 examinations. They also made 85 home visits in connection with nursery children.

OTHER EXAMINATIONS

There were 346 special examinations at the School Clinic during 1953. These included examinations of handicapped children, candidates for juvenile employment, children being boarded out, teachers, etc.

The medical examination of entrants to courses of training for teaching and of candidates in connection with employment as teachers is undertaken by the School Health Service.

INQUIRIES BY N.S.P.C.C.

The Local Inspector of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children made inquiries and visits on behalf of the Education Authority into conditions involving 14 families (32 children). These were mostly cases of neglect and appear to have been dealt with satisfactorily.

NON-MAINTAINED SECONDARY SCHOOL

Notre Dame High School for Girls was visited twice during 1953 by a School Medical Officer.

210 routine examinations, 1 special, and 80 re-examinations were made at school.

HANDICAPPED PUPILS

The several categories of handicapped pupils requiring special educational treatment are defined in Regulation 14 of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, and the numbers on the register at the end of 1953 were as follows :—

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
(1) Blind	1	1	2
(2) Partially sighted	—	1	1
(3) Deaf	7	3	10
(4) Partially deaf	5	1	6
(5) Delicate	29	22	51
(6) Physically handicapped	41	21	62
(7) Educationally sub-normal	38	36	74
(8) Maladjusted	5	3	8
(9) Epileptic	3	1	4
Totals	129	89	218

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

The number of half-day sessions allocated in 1953 to the administration of the school dental service and to dental inspection and treatment was 869.

In addition, treatment was provided for patients referred under the maternity and child welfare scheme, amounting to 86 sessions.

NUMBER OF SESSIONS DEVOTED TO :—

	MR. J. P. WILSON	MRS. A. CANOVAN
(1) Administration	14	0
(2) Inspection (a) at School ..	15	11
(b) at Clinic ..	12	10
(3) Treatment	421	386
	462	407
(4) Maternity and Child Welfare Dental Work	45	41
Totals	507	448

Sessions included under administration were those devoted to the preparation of the annual report, attendance at meetings, etc.

In accordance with Regulation 10 (1) (b) of the School Health Service and Handicapped Pupils Regulations, 1953, every pupil who is admitted for the first time to a maintained school should be inspected by a dental officer as soon as possible after admission and on such later occasions as may be practicable and necessary.

It was possible in 1953 to comply with the Regulation quoted in the previous paragraph.

2,232 inspections were carried out in school. Of this number, 982 were new routine patients in primary schools and 178 attended nursery schools ; the remainder, 1,072, were re-inspections.

Of the 1,555 requiring treatment, 1,036, or 66·6 per cent., accepted treatment at the School Clinic. By the end of the year, 1,510 routines had received treatment and 1,152 had been completed.

TABLE V.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT CARRIED OUT BY THE AUTHORITY

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers :—			
(a)	Periodic (at School)	.....	1,952
(b)	Specials (at Clinic)	.....	2,995
	Total (a) and (b)	.....	4,947
<hr/>			
(2)	Number found to require treatment	.....	4,263
(3)	Number referred for treatment	.....	4,130
(4)	Number actually treated	.....	3,915
(5)	Attendances made by pupils for treatment	.....	13,570
<hr/>			
(6) Half-days devoted to :			
	(a) Inspection	.....	48
	(b) Treatment	.....	807
	Total (a) and (b)	....	855
	(c) Administration	.....	14
	(d) Maternity and Child Welfare Work	.....	86*
	Total (a), (b), (c), (d)	.....	955
<hr/>			
(7) Fillings :			
	Permanent Teeth	.....	2,948
	Temporary Teeth	.....	74
	Total	.....	3,022
<hr/>			
(8) Number of teeth filled :			
	Permanent Teeth	.....	2,352
	Temporary Teeth	.....	68
	Total	.....	2,420
<hr/>			
(9) Extractions :			
	Permanent Teeth	.....	1,265
	Temporary Teeth	.....	5,125
	Total	.....	6,390
<hr/>			
(10) Administration by School Medical Officers of general anæsthetics for extraction		.....	1,649
<hr/>			
(11) Other operations :			
	Permanent Teeth	.....	3,569
	Temporary Teeth	.....	4,708
	Total	.....	8,277
<hr/>			

* The work under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme is summarised in Table 25, page 90.

Treatment was also carried out for children attending Nursery Schools :—

Number inspected	285
Referred for treatment	126
Treated { partly	9 }
{ completely	72 }
Attendances	134
Extractions	49
General anæsthetics	19
Other operations	278

The use of silver nitrate for conserving deciduous teeth, and also for treating chalky patches on second teeth, has proved to be a reliable form of treatment, but is not shewn separately in the above tables, the figures being included under heading (11) "other operations." 4,706 deciduous and 365 permanent teeth were treated with silver nitrate during 1953.

It is also interesting to note that whilst there was a further increase in the number of cases in which a general anæsthetic was given (from 1,044 cases in 1952 to 1,668 in 1953), local anæsthesia had still a large part to play, for 2,105 local anæsthetics were given.

Regulation treatment is still in great demand. During the year, 161 appliances were inserted for 140 patients. Of these, 14 were mouth shields, which are worn at night only to correct faulty breathing as well as to regulate the teeth. This highly specialised work causes the dental staff some anxiety, as it is not always possible to obtain full co-operation from the patients and their parents. Where the children and parents are keen from the outset, excellent results are possible and health as well as appearance is enhanced.

The milder weather during the winter months meant that there were fewer children who damaged second front teeth. An influx of such cases always accompanies frosty slippery conditions. Those who did meet with accident to their valuable front teeth and presented themselves at the School Clinic were able to receive the best possible treatment.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Primary school work continues on the lines indicated in the previous report and with the installation of more climbing apparatus it is possible to provide challenging activities which are both enjoyable and beneficial.

Various experiments have been undertaken with secondary boys and a lesson which is considered to be the logical progression on primary work is being developed. It has been noticeable during 1953 that more boys than ever have worn the correct dress for the physical education lesson and this, no doubt, reflects the interest of both parents and scholars as well as the enthusiasm of the teacher.

In secondary girls' schools a varied curriculum of physical education has been drawn up and, in addition to the gymnastic lessons, there are periods of dancing, swimming, tennis, hockey, and netball, which it is hoped will promote a healthy participation in these pursuits when the girls leave school.

Out-of-school activities have taken up much of the teachers' time during the year. The Primary and Secondary Schools' Football Leagues include all Borough schools and matches are played after school or on Saturday mornings. Inter-school Rugby football has also been a feature of winter games. The Schools' Cricket Association was reformed during 1953, after a lapse of nearly fifteen years, and inter-school cricket matches were added to the activities of a busy summer term, in which athletics and swimming were increasingly popular with boys and tennis and swimming with girls.

The effect of these varied aspects of physical education on boys and girls is to be seen in their physique which, in general, is good and in their skill and interest in games. The manner in which so many school leavers continue with dancing and games is most encouraging to all those who are responsible for the teaching of these subjects in schools.

TABLE B
COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
Cases of Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1953

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED														CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH WARD											Cases Treated in Hospital	
	ALL AGES	AGES (IN YEARS)													Castle	Delapre	Kingsley	Kingsthorpe	St. Crispin	St. Edmund	St. George	St. James	St. Michael	South	Spencer		Weston
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Not Known													
Acute Encephalitis (infective)	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	
Acute Poliomyelitis :—																											
Paralytic	11	1	1	1	—	—	4	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	2	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	10
Non-paralytic	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Erysipelas	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	12	11	—	5	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	1	6	2	1
Food Poisoning	14	—	—	—	1	1	—	4	1	1	3	1	1	1	2	6	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	—	—	—	1
Malaria (contracted abroad)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	391	12	52	56	48	72	111	19	7	8	2	—	—	4	21	36	35	46	14	15	21	56	20	12	47	68	6
Meningococcal Infection ..	4	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	4
Pneumonia	95	1	1	—	3	1	10	1	3	14	16	26	19	—	8	12	5	16	7	2	5	8	5	13	10	4	18
Puerperal Pyrexia	113	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	90	12	1	—	—	1	3	1	11	10	4	2	8	4	58	6	5	108
Scarlet Fever	181	—	3	6	9	20	104	31	4	2	1	1	—	—	10	23	11	15	28	8	14	21	6	3	35	7	88
Whooping Cough	379	31	37	45	56	50	143	8	—	3	1	—	—	5	11	29	31	61	14	13	24	30	37	3	99	27	5
Tuberculosis :—																											
Respiratory	69	—	—	—	—	1	1	5	8	17	14	18	5	—	8	5	8	5	4	2	3	8	4	2	19	1	51
Other Forms	14	—	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	4	2	2	1	—	2	1	1	3	—	—	2	1	1	2	1	—	2
TOTALS	1303	45	94	110	117	146	380	71	35	145	51	62	37	10	69	118	95	162	81	47	76	134	83	100	223	115	297

The above figures allow for corrections in diagnosis and include non-civilian cases. (See Sections VI. and VII. of this Report for further information).

No notifications were received of other notifiable diseases not specified in the Table above (e.g., diphtheria, dysentery, ophthalmia neonatorum, smallpox, typhoid fever).

TABLE C
COUNTY BOROUGH OF NORTHAMPTON
Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life during the Year 1953

CAUSES OF DEATH	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES (IN YEARS) OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT										
	ALL AGES			0-	1-	5-	15-	25-	45-	65-	75-
	Total	M.	F.								
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	21	15	6	—	—	—	—	6	10	4	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	4	3	1	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	6	2	4	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	45	31	14	—	—	—	—	3	19	8	15
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	24	20	4	—	—	—	—	1	12	9	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	22	—	22	—	—	—	—	1	8	9	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	15	—	15	—	—	—	—	2	8	3	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	102	63	39	—	1	—	1	4	39	26	31
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	6	4	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—
16. Diabetes	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	254	115	139	—	—	—	1	2	31	77	143
18. Coronary disease, angina	190	120	70	—	—	—	—	2	36	81	71
19. Hypertension with heart disease	42	19	23	—	—	—	—	—	8	15	19
20. Other heart disease	266	110	156	—	—	—	—	5	30	56	175
21. Other circulatory disease	26	14	12	—	—	—	—	1	6	8	11
22. Influenza	17	9	8	1	—	—	1	—	2	7	6
23. Pneumonia	25	10	15	1	1	1	—	—	3	7	12
24. Bronchitis	95	63	32	—	—	1	—	1	20	37	36
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	9	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	2	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	10	7	3	—	—	—	1	—	5	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	11	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	7	4	3	6	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	83	41	42	24	—	2	1	5	22	13	16
33. Motor vehicle accidents	13	10	3	—	—	—	1	6	2	2	2
34. All other accidents	25	10	15	1	—	1	—	1	7	4	11
35. Suicide	16	8	8	—	—	—	—	6	6	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1340	694	646	35*	2	6	11	48	284	377	577

* 23 of these 35 infants were under four weeks of age.

The above Table was prepared from information supplied by the Registrar-General.

